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Failure a 'disaster' for Britain

Major: why I won't quit EMU talks

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

single currency negotiations to prevent the rest of Europe fudging the terms of entry and creating a failed monetary union that would be a disaster for the country and the continent, John Major writes in

The Times today.

The Prime Minister, who will meet fellow European leaders at an informal summit on the future of the EU in Dublin today, offers his most detailed defence yet of his "wait and see" approach in an attempt to prevent next week's Conservative conference descending into a battle over whether membership of a single currency should be ruled out for the lifetime of the next parliament.

in the talks because monetary union will have a deep impact on this country whether it ioins or not. He also promises to accept the verdict of a referendum that would be called if the Government wanted to go ahead, although he indicates for the first time some doubt about whether a single currency will be introduced on target in 1999.

Mr Major's article on page 20 is intended to be a definitive statement of the Government's position through to the ection and beyond and to take the heat out of an issue that will almost certainly dominate the Bournemouth gathering next week. His decision to concentrate on the importance of Britain staying in the monetary union, whether or not Britain is in it, marks a subtle change of emphasis.

He writes: "If EMU goes ahead, with or without us, it is in our interest to ensure that it does so on a basis and timetable that can be sus-tained. A failed single currency would be a disaster. Our European partners buy 60 per cent of our exports. Our countries are major investors in their economies.

"If they destabilise their economies and the single market - for example by fudging the criteria for entry -- the British economy will suffer as well. We have a strong interest in a thriving European economy Britain's voice must be He says that Britain must be heard in the discussion of how a single currency would

> By staying at the centre of the debate, the Government had already ensured that the exchange-rate mechanism remains voluntary and was bestplaced to resist protectionist measures damaging to Britain's interests, he says. "We will continue to do so. That is in Britain's interest. That is what the City and business expect from us. We must remain closely involved in the debate about the future of our largest market."

Mr Major says the right course is to make a choice about the single currency only when the issues are clear. But he denies that such an approach is a "balancing act".

BRITAIN must stay in the talks to influence the shape of There were many unknowns that could affect Britain. "At the most basic level we cannot yet be sure EMU will go ahead as planned in 1999. We don't yet know who is likely to be in the first wave if and

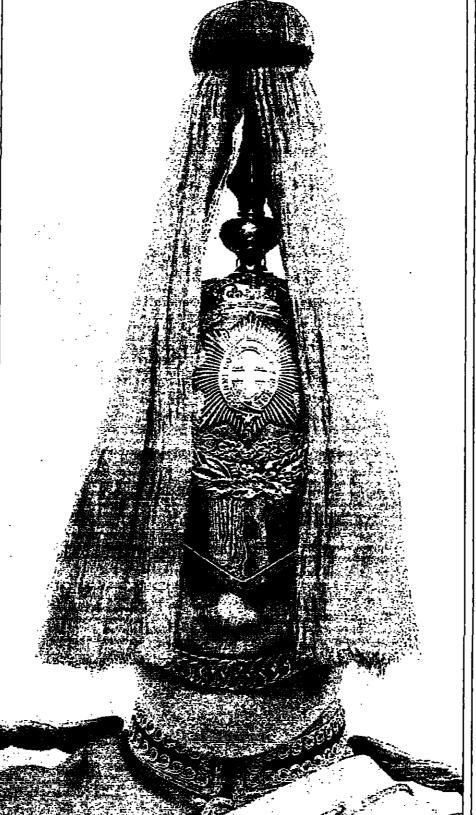
when it goes ahead." It is not yet known how much economic convergence will have been achieved or how strictly the economic criteria will be adhered to. He says: "We also need to weigh the effect of being in or out on the City as one of the major financial centres in the world."

Reaffirming his commitment to a referendum, he says: "If we decide to go ahead in the next parliament, we would consult the British nation in a referendum and accept their verdict. If we think it right to stay out we will do so."

Eurosceptics are expected to press Mr Major to of Britain's place at the talks to try to stop other states joining the single currency in the first wave.

John Redwood, last year's leadership challenger, will tell GMTV tomorrow that only Luxembourg would qualify, but other countries would want to "stretch and weave and duck around the treaty". Britain should work away diplomatically to say 'no' to a "half-baked scheme put through on the basis of dubious legality".

EU summit, page 14 No fudge, page 20 Leading article and letters, page 21



A Lifeguards trumpeter rehearsing yesterday for the Horse of the Year show at Wembley

Prince's top aide loses post after royal summit

By Alan Hamilton

COMMANDER Richard Aylard, the Prince of Wales's private secretary, is to leave

his post early next year. The decision was taken at a private meeting between the two men at Balmoral on Thursday. Sources at St James's Palace insisted last night that the parting was by mutual agreement, but it was clear that Commander Aylard, 44, had effectively been

A spokeswoman for the Prince said last night that Commander Aylard had taken the job in 1991 for a fiveyear period, and had now served 5½ years. "He has always told the Prince that he would leave at some stage: both men now feel that the time is right for a change," the spokeswoman said.

A replacement is expected to be announced soon: the frontrunners are likely to be Stephen Lamport, the Prince's assistant private secretary, who was recruited from the Foreign Office, and Mark Boland, another assistant secretary, who trained as a lawyer and was recently recruited from the Press Complaints Commission.

Commander Aylard's fate appears to have been sealed when he attended the recent Balmoral summit with senior members of the Royal Family and their principal advisers. His consistent loyalty to the Prince during the heir to the throne's separation and eventual divorce did not endear him to the old guard of Buckingham Palace courtiers led by Sir Robert Fellowes, the Oueen's private secretary. Throughout the Prince's

marital difficulties, Com-

mander Aylard encouraged him to adopt a policy of openness. It was he who advised the Prince to confess adultery with Camilla Parker Bowles in the 1994 ITV documentary made by Jonathan Dimbleby, and since then he is believed to have favoured a gradual introduction of Mrs Parker Bowles into the public eye, in the hope that she would gain a wider acceptance.

However, Commander Aylard's policy of honesty did not gain the approval of Bucking-



Avlard: advised Prince to adopt "open" policy

ham Palace, determined at all costs to repair the damage of the Prince's divorce. The Prince's confession of adultery prompted the Princess of Wales to make her own televised confession about an affair with Major James Hewitt; from the lofty heights of Buckingham Palace, the whole coinage of royalty appeared to be in a downward spiral of devaluation.

The private secretary's own personal circumstances did not help him; he is currently in divorce proceedings with his second wife, with whom he has two young daughters.

ng

Pesticide blamed for Gulf illness

women suffering from socalled Gulf War syndrome may have been poisoned by pesticides used in heavy doses to kill off a plague of diseasecarrying flies and bugs in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. according to the latest research by the Ministry of

Record century for teenager

Pakistan cricketer Shahid Afridi, 16. set a one-day international record in Nairobi yesterday when he scored a century off 37 balls against Sri Lanka in their four nations tournament match.

The all-rounder hit II sixes and six fours — a display that one spectator said "looked more like baseball"... Page 48

The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk



Cocaine question hangs over US election debate

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AS PRESIDENT Clinton and Bob Dole prepared for their first presidential debate in Hartford, Connecticut, tomorrow night two startling allegations were levelled against the President and his Administration yesterday.

Emmett Tyrrell, editor of the right-wing American Spectator magazine, claimed Mr Clinton was refusing to re-lease his medical records because he was a heavy cocaine user in the early 1980s and may have been treated for Dennis Sculimbrene, a for-

mer FBI agent who checked the backgrounds of White House employees until last April, told The Wall Street Journal, equally right-wing. that 'about 25 per cent of the incoming administration ... had a problem with illegal drugs. Not just casual experimentation, but a pattern of usage ... not just marijuana but cocaine, amphetamines, amphetamine-derived designer drugs such as Ecstasy. hashish. mushrooms." The drug-takers included "senior

aides and advisers to the The allegations were the latest in a long series of charges bought by Mr Clinton's political enemies since 1992. None have ever been proved or dismissed, but what

intrigued Washington yesterday was whether Mr Dole would find an oblique way of raising them before a live television audience of perhaps 80 million tomorrow.

Would he challenge Mr Clinton to release his medical records? Would he insist the President rule out second-term pardons for convicted Whitewater associates who might otherwise co-operate with the special prosecutor? Would he demand publication of a suppressed FBI report that allegedly excoriates Mr Clinton for lack of leadership on drug abuse? "The unexpected is the secret of the battlefield," teased Scott Reed, Mr Dole's

campaign manager.

Mr Dole, trailing badly with one month left before polling day, must rock Mr Clinton to retain any hope of winning, but the risks of a slashing attack are great. He would instantly revive the mean "hatchet man" image that has dogged him since his 1976 vice-presidential debate against Walter Mondale, when he snarled that Vietnam, Korea and the Second World

War were "Democrat wars". Both men have hidden themselves away with large retinues to prepare - Mr Dole at his Florida condominium and Mr Clinton, on a rural



Brady: she allegedly misled fans on prices

Top woman in football sent for trial

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND PETER BALL

KARREN BRADY, managing director of Birmingham City football club, was committed for trial yesterday on charges of advertising misleading prices for away match tickets last year.

David Sullivan, the first division club's owner, and the directors immediately threat-ened to sell, blaming Birmingham City Council and some supporters for the litigation.

Miss Brady, 27, the only woman at such a level in English football, and the club each face five counts under the Consumer Protection Act. The prosecution is over the club charging supporters £15 to join their Away Travel Club, the only way they could obtain tickets for away games. That has now been scrapped.

Gun fanatic put in charge of armoury at club

By Stewart Tendler and Kate Alderson

A DISTURBED gun enthusiast who drew up plans for a Hungerford-style massacre of passers-by and the police officers who took away his gun licence succeedin in becoming an armourer at his local gun club, it was disclosed yester-

day. Jason Curtis, 27, lost his firearms certificate to hold 19 weapons two years ago when police were concerned at his threats to shoot intruders, but continued to have lawful access to some of them which he had given to his gun club. He also imported weapon parts from the United States and continued to make his own ammunition.

Last night as Curtis, from Llandridnon, Powys, was sent by a judge to Ashworth Hospital, Merseyside, for psychiatric assessment after pleading guilty to four firearms charges, senior police officers believed they had narrowly averted another massacre.

One, who described Curtis as "a walking time bomb", said the way he had "weaved" his way round the gun laws. Coming a month before the publication of Lord Cullen's report on Dunblane the case is certain to be taken up by gun reformers such as the Snowdrop Group, which called for a total gun ban at the Labour Party conference this week.

According to police, Curtis drafted a five-page plan in which he detailed walking into the town's police station and shooting down an inspector and two PCs involved in seizing his firearms certificate. Curtis then planned to walk home shooting passers-by as he went. He would end the massacre by waiting for armed police to arrive and die in a shootout.

Remanding Curtis for the assessment, Recorder Alex Carlile QC at the Mold Crown Court described the case as serious. "This is a man who on the face of it poses a very specific danger to certain police officers and possibly a general danger because of his attitude to firearms."

Curtis, who lived on his own and was known as a "loner" with a life-long fascination for guns, lost his certificate when he applied to hold four or five more guns two years ago. When a policeman checked security at his home Curtis assured him the guns would be safe and threatened that he would kill anyone trying to

break in. Police forced Curtis to lose his certificate and he never forgave the officers involved. In June this year he was stopped for a drugs check and his home was searched. The search revealed the plan.

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the cold and cruel childhood

that shaped genius

on Paul Gascoigne

Blunder makes Party go with a bang

t was a pretty loud bang and everybody thought a bomb had gone off. Or had someone been shot? The music stopped. Delegates dancing in the aisles froze. There was complete silence as stared around in

Then from above came a rain of little leaflets — Vote - fired from the Winter Gardens balcony. There was a brave "three cheers". Labour's composure returned but it took time. Until the music restarted, people milled distractedly around, the mood of celebration

It was the first and only big blunder in a week otherwise almost without incident, and it came in the closing minutes. As delegates and journalists left Blackpool, it remained unclear how the mistake could have been made. Why was the

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

explosion so loud? Why did they halt the music? Everything about the clos-ing rally had been going so well. John Prescott had been welcomed with a standing ovation even before he spoke. After the now-routine video (the novelty of conference videas is gone and people are growing bored with them) he made a rousing speech with some good jokes, some bad jokes and some indifferent ones. All alike were greeted with gales of laughter from a rank and file in whose eyes Mr

Prescott can do no wrong. There were moments during his patter when we wondered whether we had wandered into the wrong arena at Black-

pool and found ourselves vatching Frank Carson, with Eddie Large's voice.

Labour's deputy leader did his best to keep to his prereleased text - Mr Prescott's controllers now steer him away from all unscripted en-counters with Britain - but there was one stumble and it proved the bit delegates loved best. Losing the crib-card of Labour's promises he had planned to hold up. Prescott exploded: "I knew this would happen. You know me. I'm old Labour. Got to use my own

Everybody cheered. Spin-doctors' video-pagers flashed "off-message" warnings to new Labour's command-conla "Off-message" is the PR-speak for signals out of line with the desired image. "We believe in socialist principles!" declared Prescott. Off-message

Beep — Urgent — Abort. Yet some of the best of Labour's conference has been off-message - or superfluous to the gloss which some want to project. For this is still a party with kindness and idealism in its ranks. The night before Prescutt's speech I found myself in a room without videos or flashy displays. for a reception for Alf Morris MP, who is retiring.

The compassionate and tireless Morris has worked for decades for the disabled: Sense (the deaf blind association) together with Alzheimer's and muscular dystrophy groups wanted to thank him. Tony Blair, who must have been come and made a moving

Off-message or not, delegates gave Prescott a rousing ovation yesterday, and all went well - before the bang. But what a change that explo-sion wrought! The edgy confidence the party has exuded all week evaporated instantly. One bang, one bad stumble, and it was as though delegates feared they had only been dreaming and the game was up. Would a giant spectre of Mrs Thatcher come winging, bat-like, through the hall, as everyone ran screaming for

Confidence returned. Cameramen ambushed a toddler dancing to It Can Only Get Better. Scared by the camera flashes, the child stopped and began to cry. Image of weep-ing babe. Off-message! Off-message! The toddler was

were outlined in a letter from

Nicholas Soames, the Armed

Forces Minister, to Michael

Colvin, chairman of the all-

party Commons Defence

Richard Barr, a solicitor representing 125 Gulf War

veterans, said the MoD disclo-

sure was very important, as

research had proved that the

effect of organophosphates

was increased ten-fold when

combined with nerve gas pro-

tection tablets. All troops were given the tablets to take

The MoD admission is

very much more significant

than it appears at first sight."

he said. Veterans had spoken of tents "absolutely running"

David Clark, the Shadow

Defence Secretary, welcomed

the announcement but said: "I

wonder why they have taken

four years to get this far and I

believe they are playing down the problem even yet by say-ing this latest problem is unlikely to have affected more

than half a dozen people."

regularly.

with pesticides.

Cattle cull

backlog on farms At least 400,000 over-age cartle are waiting on farms to be destroyed in response to the BSE scare, more than twice the previous estimate, the

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Government said. To deal with the "fresh emergency". ministers promised measures soon to raise the slaughter rate from 35,000 to 55,000 a week and to help farmers, who face the expense of having to keep unproductive animals for up to an extra three months.

Car murder

A man who ran over his sisterin-law three times after she abandoned an arranged mar-riage was jailed for life for murder at Leeds Crown Court yesterday. Shabir Hussain of Bradford killed Tasleem Sadiq Begum as she met a lover.

Poison dog dies

Dog owners were warned yesterday to guard their pets when a fourth dog died after walking on grass near a housing estate at Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees. Three earlier deaths were caused by pesticide-laced bait.

Maginnis cleared

Police are to take no action againt the Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis over allegations of assault at his London flat. He was questioned after a neighbour claimed he was struck when he went to complain about noise.

Tester jailed

Fareham, Hampshire, a convicted fraudster used by Which? to test cashpoints, was jailed for 512 years at Southwark Crown Court, southeast London, after he went on to plunder £130,000.

Pay de deux

Two teachers who were unfairly dismissed from the renowned Elmhurst Ballet School in Camberley, Surrey, by a new headmaster who thought they were too oldfashioned won a total of more than £20,000 compensation.

Peace award

Senator George Mitchell is to receive a peace award for his efforts to foster a settlement in Northern Ireland. The chairman of the multi-party talks will receive the accolade from Operation North.

Ex-director jailed

Nigel Burrows, 42, of Bedala North Yorkshire, a former director of Manchester United football club, was jailed for two years yesterday at Sheffield Crown Court for stealing E145,000 a widow had given him to invest.

MoD discovery throws new light on Gulf War syndrome

Pesticides might have poisoned service personnel

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

PESTICIDES might have poisoned some of the servicemen and women suffering from socalled Gulf War syndrome, according to the latest Ministry of Defence research. The pesticides were used in heavy doses against a plague of disease-carrying flies and bugs in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.
A senior MoD official said

the discovery that British troops serving in the Gulf in 1990 and 1991 had been engaged in much larger-scale pesticide spraying than had been realised did not solve the mystery over the many illnesses affecting hundreds of Gulf War veterans. "This is not the answer for those claiming to be suffering from Gulf War syndrome but it could be a factor." He said it was sufficiently important a discovery for it to be thoroughly reviewed by a special MoD medical assessment team

headed by Group Captain Bill Coker, a consultant physician who has been examining all those claiming to be suffering from Gulf War syndrome.

MoD medical experts said the organophosphare pesti-cides, similar to ones used in sheep-dipping although in much smaller doses, would have caused serious sickness almost immediately if inhaled during spraying.
Organophosphate insecti-

cides, including diazinon, which is acknowledged to be a dangerous substance if used without proper protection, were sprayed on all the British military tents because of the 'large problem of flies" affecting British troops in Saudi Arabia. The Americans who were also suffering from plagues of flies and bugs, used the same insecticides.

The MoD medical experts said the number of British military personnel possibly suffering from pesticide poisoning would have been small, affecting those involved in carrying out the spraying. One official said it might have

been only about half a dozen. The medical reports on the 750 Gulf War veterans examined so far will now be reviewed to see if any of them had suffered from symptoms associated with organophos-phate poisoning including tingling and numbness in the fingers and toes.

Although poisoning from pesticides normally manifested itself within three months. there could be longer-term cases where personnel had further contact with the pesticides on other occasions. It could then lead to asthma, the

medical experts said. More than 1,100 Gulf War veterans are now suffering from a range of illnesses. including chronic fatigue,

swollen joints and headaches. The area worst affected by flies was at Al Jubayl, the huge port on the east coast of Saudi Arabia where the majority of Britain's 50,000 Gulf War troops were based

sent from Britain were inadequate to deal with the plague of flies, permission was given for stocks to be bought from local sources. The MoD official said some of the pesticides nuight have been sprayed in

Nicholas Soames, left, the defence minister, told Michael Colvin, of the defence committee, of findings breach of strict procedures and this was now being investigated.

The senior MoD official said every attempt was being made to discover whether there was any common factor among those suffering from illnesses which could be directly related to their service in the Gulf. A big research programme into Gulf health issues is to be launched next month, overseen by the Medical Research Council.

The official denied that any British troops could have been affected by a chemical cloud that rose from an Iraqi chemical weapons bunker destroyed by American bombers. Up to 14.000 American soldiers

could have been affected. The official said the nearest British troops to the so-called "bunker 73" were more than 87 miles away to the south of the chemical dump. CIA investigators had discovered that the chemical cloud had drifted northeast about 15 miles, the



support of local party officials

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

Conservative constituency association rallied behind the Tory MP yesterday in an attempt to end speculation about his future.

Tatton Conservatives accused The Guardian of running a dishonest and hysterical vendetta against the

former Trade Minister. A statement, in the name of Alan Barnes, the chairman. which was unanimously approved by the association's 12 officers, said that most members of the 1,800-strong association had reacted with anger to the "torrent of abuse" against their MP. "It was anger followed by intense sympathy for Mr and Mrs Hamilton at their victim-

isation," Mr Barnes's statement, which followed reports of dissent within the constituency, said there were no plans for a meeting to discuss Mr Hamilton's future.

The allegations by The Guardian, that Mr Hamilton had accepted cash for questions from Mohamed Fayed, the owner of Harrods. have been referred to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parlia-mentary Commissioner for Standards.

The statement added: "Neil has absolute confidence that he will be exonerated. We have absolute confidence in him." Brian Mawhinney, the Tory

OFFICERS of Neil Hamilton's Prime Minister, he replied: "As we speak, he certainly has my support,"

Mr Hamilton kept a low profile in the constituency vesterday as he talked to party officers. His wife, Christine, dismissed speculation that he faced deselection.

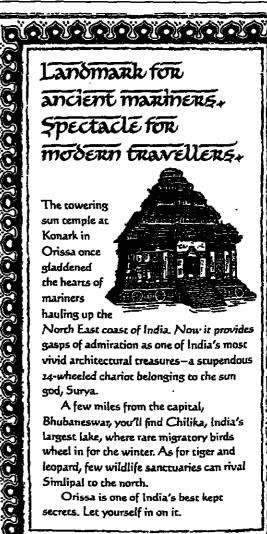
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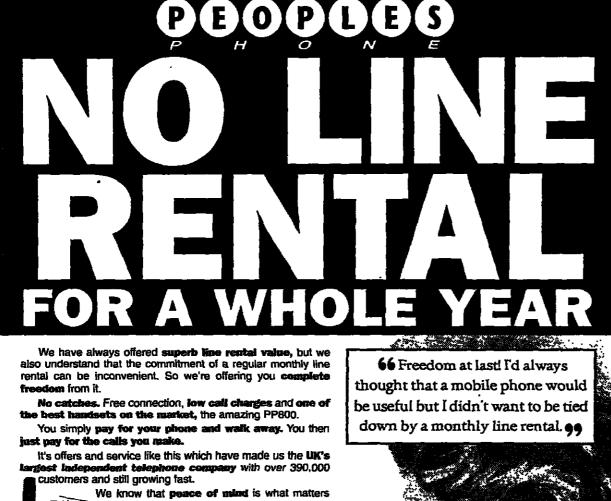
derful support from the Tatton Constituency Association, in a funny way, all these lies and the misunderstanding and the misrepresentation that has come out from the media in the last few days have actually stiffened their support for Neil." she told Greater Manchester Radio.

Labour spent the day trying to limit the fallout from the dismissal on Thursday of a frontbench spokesman in the House of Lords who publicly supported Ian Greer the lobbyist at the centre of the cashr-questions affair.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, stressed that Baroness Turner, the party's employment spokesman who was a non-executive director of lan Greer Associates, had "behaved very honourably". But he added: "There was a potential conflict of interest and

therefore she stood down." Baroness Turner, 69, who took part in a routine board meeting at IGA yesterday, issued a statement saying: "I have stepped down from the front bench which I regret doing, because I believe I was a good employment spokes-person. But I do so knowing that my leader in the Lords





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Party chairman, yesterday described Mr Hamilton as a good and hard working MP. Pressed on whether Mr Hamilton enjoyed the support of the party high command and the

guilty of any impropriety."

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Life sentence for high-living career criminal

Conman plotted £20m kidnap from prison

By RICHARD DUCE AND PETER FOSTER

AN ARCH conman who plotted from his prison cell to kidnap one of the wealthiest men in Britain to fund a luxury lifestyle on his release was jailed for life at the Old Bailey yesterday. Sacheverell De Houghton.

56, was already serving ten years for kidnapping and blackmailing another man when he laid his elaborate plans to raise £20 million. The Oxford graduate, who claimed to have known the Earl of Lucan and the Kray twins. had nurtured his taste for the high life during frequent stays in prison for offences of dis-

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honesty and deception. Judge Gordon told De Houghton: "You are a highly intelligent man but a highly dangerous one. It is very sad that someone with such obvious abilities should have chosen to spend his life the way he has. The public has got to be

De Houghton was cleared of conspiring to murder the multimillionaire, known only as G, but was convicted of incitement to kidnap. During the month-long trial the jury was told that De Houghton, born in India 56 years ago to a military family, was known to police simply as Stanley Houton, a career criminal.

He claimed to have attended Eton, but in fact went to a Reading state school. He then

won a scholarship to Christchurch to read history, where he funded his social life in London by stealing from fellow students. He boasted to the jury of "liberating" valuable items and, in spite of his homosexuality, saw himself as

a "debs' delight". While in prison he took up compulsive letter-writing to strangers. His erudition and literary knowledge often led to lengthy correspendence with people with no knowledge of his criminal past.

After being imprisoned in 1992 he focused his attention on "preparing for the day he was to be released and wished to make substantial funds so that he could enjoy life", William Boyce, for the prosecution, told the court. He set up bank accounts, negotiated the purchase of a castle in the Hebrides and a Cornish estate, set up bank accounts in Cornwall and Denmark, engaged solicitors, and found a printer for his letterheads and

business cards. His target was the "phenomenally rich" millionaire, and the money was to be extorted under torture. "It is clear that what was intended was to entice G to a quiet location, extract from him by force a very large sum of money and then, probably by using drugs, cause him to lose his memory, mind or life," the



De Houghton: known to police as Stanley Houton

judge said. G was affected "considerably" when told of

De Houghton had been ailed in 1992 for kidnapping John Gaze, an art dealer, and threatening to torture him if he did not hand over art treasures. De Houghton had lured Mr Gaze by daiming to be a dealer in Russian icons. For G the bait was furniture, a particular interest of the multimillionaire. The ruse was to say De Houghton had a very valuable item of furniture. He wrote to G, who took the bait and began to communicate. G's staff were to be faxed

said. However, among helpers outside prison recruited by De Houghton was an undercover De Houghton was still

"beavering away" inside prison, writing to banks and surveyors. He wrote then inviting G to go to Scotland to view the furniture," Mr Boyce said. By February 1996, howwer, there were lears that De Houghton had become suspicious of the undercover policeman. Detectives decided to make arrests. The prosecution said that De Houghton had also attempted to recruit former fellow-prisoner. Everton Morrison, to help

Mr Morrison, 30, of Croydon, south London, was cleared of conspiring to murder the millionaire. The jury could not agree on a verdict on a further charge against both men of conspiring together to kidnap, and the charge was left on the file.

John McVicar, the writer and criminologist, was a fellow immate of De Houghton at Wandsworth prison in 1964. Yesterday he remembered him as an entertaining Wildean figure. "Like me he was interested in literature and books, only better read. He played the class ticket: I suppose people didn't think he was the type to be a crook."



Samantha Slater wearing a sari in Trissur prison, where she has spent two years

Model in Indian jail freed after campaign

By Coomi Kaboor AND LIN JENKINS

A BRITISH model has been released from a ten-year prison term in India for possessing drugs after a campaign culminating in an appeal by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign

Secretary. Samantha Slater, 25, from Birmingham, who was convicted of possessing cannabis resin two years ago while backpacking in the country, has been pardoned and released from Trissur central prison in Kerala state. She told an Indian journalist that she has been miserable and fed an unsatisfactory" diet.

The intervention of Mr Rifkind followed repeated requests from the British authorities, including the former and the present High Commissioner. Miss Slater's mother, Brenda, who is planning to fly to India, said last night: "I can't believe my Sam is finally coming home. I won't have to spend another Christmas without her."

Miss Slater and her boyfriend Andrew Hesketh were spending six months exploring the subcontinent when they were stopped by police January 1992 at Idukki in the mountains south of Goa.

Tracey MacDonald, a family friend, said Miss Slater was mentally well, but suffering from malnutrition. Mr Hesketh, 27. who was jailed for three years and fined, is



Two-inch pen sold for £1,800

By John Shaw

A TWO-INCH fountain pen, believed to be the smallest in the world, was auctioned for £1,840 in London yesterday. The black Waterman Doll. about 80 years old and still working, was sold in its original box to a collector for just above its

The I,000-lot sale at Bonhams attracted worldwide interest. A red Waterman 416 with a silver filigree decoration fetched £4,370.

A Mont Blanc limited-edition Octavian from 1993 made E1,750 and another limited-edition pen from the same firm, a Louis XIV from 1994, went for £1,700.

Leading article, page 21

Village loner shot at WPC after pea wine binge

By Michael Hornsby, countryside correspondent

A JUDGE expressed sympathy yesterday for a man who took pot shots at his neighbour's house with an air rifle after drinking too much of his own pea-pod wine at a village

to feel like a stranger in his village because of the many newcomers who had moved in, Gloucester Crown Court was told. He was said to spend most of his time alone brewing

the wine. Judge Hutton, who heads the Gloucestershire branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "He is not alone in thinking like that. I sympathise with him. This is something which is happening all over the country, partic-

ularly in Gloucestershire." Vines began shooting after neighbours rejected his offer of the potent wine at a Guy Fawkes party in Hillersley. Peter Heyward, for Vines. said: "He is a lonely and isolated man in the village where he has lived most of his life. Newcomers have moved in and for this typical countryman village life has changed beyond all recognition. It is no

longer the village he grew up

in and loved. "He had brewed a large quantity of a good and strong traditional English country wine - pea-pod wine. It is clear that pea-pod wine is a strong wine, one with a kick in it - a kick stronger than his

"The people at the bonfire party refused his drink and he felt he had been ostracised by

the newcomers to the village. He is a traditional countryman with good country skills."

Don Tait, for the prosecution, said: "He was clearly drunk and was rude and abusive to other people at the drinks but they refused. Then he began singing bawdy songs and was told to go."

After Vines had returned

home, neighbours opposite heard him shouting. They then saw him standing in his bedroom window waving an air rifle around. "A woman police officer arrived and saw him aiming the rifle at her,"

"She heard a shot and a pellet hit the ground nearby. She called for support and police marksmen were called in as well as the police helicopter. A stand-off, which lasted three hours and brought the village to a halt, ended when Vines left his cottage, shouting and waving a garden spade.

He was arrested and when the officers searched his home they discovered 53 gallons of home-made wine. Obviously he had tried the wine with fairly lethal consequences."

Vines admitted possessing an air rifle while committing criminal damage and was ordered to do 200 hours' community service. The judge told him: "You have got to learn to live with changing conditions. I understand Hillersley, like many other villages, is not what it was, but you have to change with it."

Fasting hermit is tempted by inn's lasagne and chips

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

for 40 days on a hill above Loch Lomond managed only 27 before staggering down to a hotel and ordering lasagne and chips.

The bearded and bedrag-

gled hermit had set up his tent on Benlomond Hill, Central Scotland, where temperatures are below freezing at night and barely creep above 9C 48F) during the day, to spend his time in meditation and prayer. He told the staff of Rowardennan Hotel that he was a monk from Scandinavia and gave his name as Father

Oucherlony. They were so worried by his starved appearace that they called an

Sharon Johnston, the manageress, said the middle-aged man was wearing a heavy jumper, jeans and a light jacket when he arrived on the doorstep earlier this week. He obviously had not washed for some days. He was

death's door.

"We gave him a bowl of soup and a bit of bread, but he began to feel even more ill. I think it may have been his body rejecting the food. The ambulance arrived and they led him out to it, but he returned after he felt better and ate a lasagne and chips."

She said the hermit, who spoke good English, seemed distressed that he had failed to keep his fast for 40 days, the time spent by Christ in the wilderness, and left disconsolately to spend the night in a youth hostel.

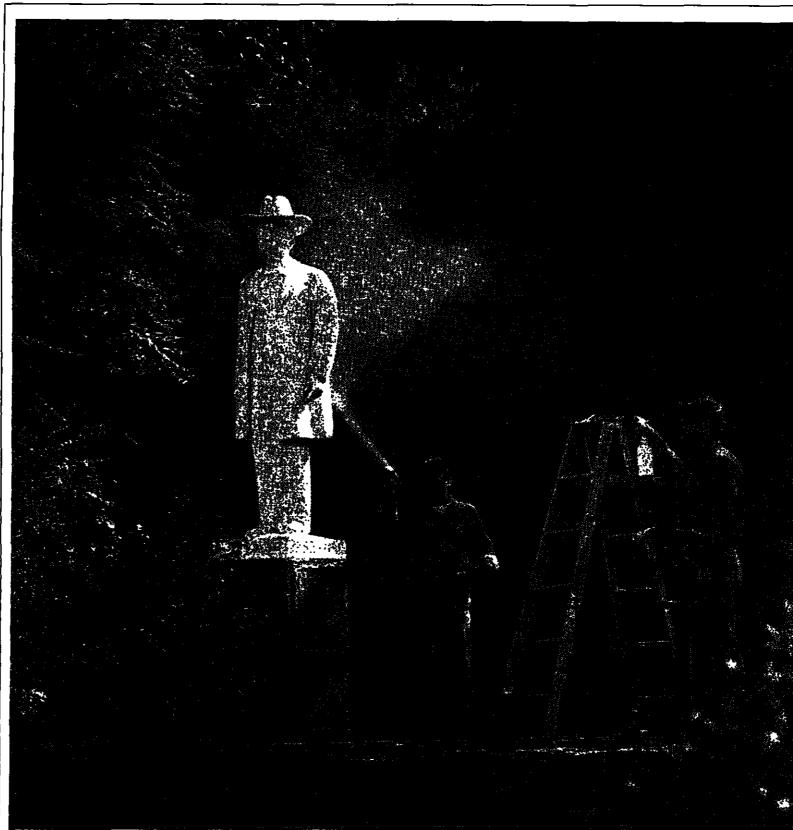
"It was really strange," she said. He was trying to get closer to God, those were his words. We do get a lot of these hermits in the summer, but never usually at this time of year. I think they must be

The hermit later returned to the hills to collect his belongings and it is believed that he Christ or even Armageddon.

A HERMIT who aimed to fast a horrible colour and looked at has left the area. Police Sergeant Kevin Findlater, of Balfron, said: "It's an old hermit-type scenario. He obvi-ously felt the need to do this. His condition was not as bad as was first thought, but he did well to last this long without food. He must have been in a valley near water."

An ambulance service spokesman said the hermit had told the ambulance crew that doctors were no use to him. "There was nothing medically wrong with him and he did not want to travel with us to hospital, so there was nothing we could do."

Although no precise figures exist, increasing numbers of men and women are thought to be seeking lives of solitude in a reaction to the materialism of the late 20th century. Some are infected by "millennium fever", a conviction that the turn of the century will witness the Second Coming of



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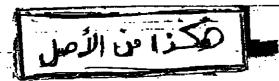
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The state of the s

The competition-beating XK8 is pure Jaguar, says Kevin Eason

So cool, it could have been Lyons-made

Right price, right pace, right time: a drive in the big cat's new sports

car can only silence the critics

The scope for error was vast. Bob Dover knows that living with a legend is all very well, but the expectations are high when the wraps come off every new Jaguar. Sir William Lyons built one of the most famous names in the motoring world with a succession of ground-breaking designs to create some of the most desirable cars of all time. Trouble is that the legacy of legend can be hard to bear in a tougher world when the gap between the competition is

But Mr Dover can sleep easily in his bed tonight, for the XK8 is a car that Sir William would have approved of Jaguar has found the perfect balance between the grand tourer and nimble sports car ... and at a bargain-basement price that will set the competition on its ear. All Sir William's cars were value-for-money, and XKS is no different: £47,950 for the coupé between £32,000 and £35,000 cheaper than BMW, Mercedes or Aston Martin rivals offering equiv-

alent performance and equipment. The XK8 was the most demanding programme yet set for Jaguar by its Ford owner because it had to finished car in 30 months. In fact, the engineering team came in three months ahead of schedule a cost saving of about £30 million - and they surpassed every tough target set on quality to make this the best-built Jaguar ever, accordchairman. This is a British car that could set Japanese standards for reliability and quality, he says, levels which could never be achieved on the outgoing XJS.

Because XKS is based on the old XJS platform, worries ran high that the car would be little more than a revamp of the old barge. The XJS has been Jaguar's bestselling sports car, but it had 20 years of production and, in truth, was as uniovely as a car can get, with more flying buttresses than the average cathedral. Any carryover would have destroyed the XK8's chances. In fact, Dover, XK8's chief engineer, says that the car is 80 per cent new. 10 per cent from the XJ saloons and only about 10 per cent - essentially the platform — from the XJS.

At the heart of the changes is a new power-train which is as much a step forward as anything to have come from Jaguar in its history. Jaguar has had only three generations of engine since 1948, all six and 12-cylinder power-packs. The fourth generation departs radically from history in that it is built outside the company — by Ford in Bridgend though designed entirely in-house - and that it is a V8. which is refined, effortless and



The bonnet diving down to the E-Type style grille is as distinctive a piece of imagery as anything currently on the road. Beneath lies an all-new V8 which proves refined, effortless and powerful

powerful with astonishing acceleration in the mid-range - the place you need it when you want to overtake or pull through tricky uphill bends. Dover reckons the engineering team wanted the torque, or pulling power, to feed in as soon as the throttle is pushed and there is no doubt that they got

it right.
There is no manual gearchange. because Ja ar says that there is no demand. No wonder, because the new five-speed automatic transmission is so smooth and efficient that changes up or down

are barely noticed. While other carmakers have added sequential semi-automatic gearboxes - so the driver pushes forward to change up and back to go down - as the manual alternative in an auto box. Jaguar has stuck resolutely to its J-gate system. It was the right decision because it is so easy to use, the stick simply pushed from second to third and so on. Unlike a sequential change, the driver always knows what gear the car is in because of the location of the



Traditional interior comforts feature a magical sound system

Not that even a run of tough and twisting roads needed much gearchanging on first test, such is the flexibility of the new power-train. Second will take the car up to almost 90mph, the V8 growling gently under the long, fluted bonnet. Even when working the car hard, the ride is stable but with enough feedback through the wheel to allow the driver to feel sports-car responses. Where the

old XJS wallowed, the XK8 springs into action, turning sharply and accurately, the ride always predictable and sure-looted.

Part of that responsiveness comes from a much-improved body and chassis, which is 25 per cent stiffer than the XIS so that there is no flexing of metal through bumps and lumps. Add to that the sort of ride you would expect to feel in a Jaguar and the car becomes

JAGUAR XK8

Engine: 4-litre AJ-V8 developing 290 brake horse power through five-speed automatic gearbox driving rear wheels. Equipped with traction control.

Performance: 0 to 60mph in 6.4 seconds (6.7 convertible), top

Economy: Fuel consumption, 22.9mpg average (23.3 convertible).

Dimensions: length 4,760mm, width 2,015mm. Weight 2588kg. Equipment: power steering, anti-lock brakes, airbags, remote locking, alarm immobiliser, tilt steering wheel, air conditioning, steering wheel audio controls, 17in alloy wheels. Convertible

Price: Coupé £47,950: convertible £54,950:

one of the most enjoyable to drive in any price bracket, not least because the company has retained the virtues prized most by its traditional buyers.

Forget criticism you might have read that XKS is too bulky and too like its distant and also Fordowned cousin, the Aston Martin DB7: I defy anyone to tell me that the XK8 does not look fabulous, particularly as a convertible. The

bonnet diving down to the E-Type style grille is as distinctive a piece of imagery as anything currently on the road, as you will discover when you see an XKS appear in

Inside, the XK8 offers the traditional comforts: wood and tasteful leather, a restful but clear set of dials . . . and one new option which blasts the opposition: a 240-watt, ten-speaker sound system tailored to the XKS's acoustics by Harmon Kardon, the American specialists and Sting, the system catapulted itself from Jaguar option to a "must have" for me.

That touch of extra magic rarely found among even the most expensive cars — speaks volumes for Jaguar. Other carmakers could a valid argument o behalf of the cars competing with the XKS in an almost overcrowded marketplace. Mercedes could argue for the logic of its engineering. BMW for its reliability. Porsche

for its sporting heritage.

But marques rarely appeal to the heart in the way that Jaguar does. The engineering of the XK8 is not just the best to have come out of Coventry in the 60 years since the business was founded, but the car is covered in tiny details, touches hich make the driver and passenger feel special as soon as they clutch the keys.

Bob Dover's brief said the XK8 had to be "sensuous, instantly desirable, exhilirating and stir emotions". It is and it does.

E-TYPE V XK8

They are soul-sisters, a quarter l of a century apart, writes Sue Baker. I drove them minutes apart. and it was a time-warp of familiarity. Stepping out of an XK8 and into a newly restored E-Type underlined striking similarities and unexpected differences.

The new Jaguar is the E-Type for the Nineties, evocatively retro-styled, still a sleek and sultry big cat, but fatter and less feral.

The model that is the XK8's historical benchmark has more front and less behind, with a body dominated by its famously phallic bonnet and encasing a narrower. sparser cabin. But it still manages to rival the newcomer for headroom and beats it for visibility.

The E-Type tested is a Series II. 4.2-litre 2+2 When it was new in 1970 it cost £2,708. It was shared by rwo brothers who drove it hard and with little concern for its future as a covetable classic.

When owner Ray Attewell bought it eight years ago for £4,000, it was a rusty non-runner. unused for a decade. It has just emerged from a total restoration. which cost conservatively £25,000. not including hundreds of hours of preparation work by its owner. It is now effectively a 1970s car built in the 1990s, with body panels rustprotected and fitted to a far higher standard than when new.

Driving both cars back-to-back was as much a reminder of how good a car the E-Type was in its day as an endorsement of the XK8's status as E-Type reinvented.

The height of the two cars is similar, but from the inside the XK8 feels more encasing. It has a higher waistline and the window area feels smaller, giving the new Jaguar a slightly more claustropho-



The quarter-century difference belies some striking similarities

Model: Series II fixedhead coupé 2+2. Engine: 4.2 litre, sixcylinder, 265 bhp. 8ft 9in. length; 15ft 4in, width: 5ft oin. Top speed: i39mph. 0-60: 7.4 secs. Consumption: avg. 18-20 mpg: louring, 25 mpg. Insurance: £200-£250 on an agreed-value, limitedmileage 13.000 miles annually) classic car policy. Original Price: 52,708.71 Value: £25,000.

bic feeling. That is despite the XKS having perceptibly more elbowroom, even though its cabin is conspicuously more sybaritic.

The E-Type feels closer to nature. Its dashboard veneers are unmistakably real wood, and its renovated leather still has the once-lived-in look of real animal skin. In its sports-interior guise, the XK8's

maple veneers are stained so dark and lacquered so heavily as to be indistinguishable from high-grade plastic, and its leather is perfection. Where the XXS's ride is a muscular glide, distancing the driver from any physical discom-forts from the road surface, the E-

Type's is more informative. communicating what is underfoot without relaying much of its harshness. For a sports car built 26 years ago, the ride is temarkably good. Both cars share a similarly mesmeric presence on the road Wherever I drove it the XKS's svelte, sensuous shape swivelled heads in its wake. But they were

being turned more by its novelty. days ahead of its official release. The E-Type commanded just as much attention. But no novelty here - it was simply in warm admiration of an unarguably, dra-

matically beautiful car. If an XKS driving past in the year 2022 still earns as many second looks as a renovated E-Type does a worthy successor.



Gorgeous looks, but at a price

Model: Aston Martin DB7 3.2 Engine: supercharged in-line 335bhp six-cylinder. 0-60: 5.7 secs. Top speed: !65mph. sions: length; 4,646mm. width 1,830mm. Price: Coupe; £82,500, convertible £89,950

The similarity between the Aston Martin DB7 and the XKS could be too close for comfort - for Aston. anyway. Those curved DB7 haunches and long overhangs tell the story of its heritage, cloned from the Jaguar XJS platform and with a straight-six supercharged 3.2-litre developed from a Jaguar race engine.

Performance figures are roughly similar, and, of course, an Aston is strong on traditional wood and leather like the Jag. But it would be too simple to say the cars are the same. The power characteristics are very different, and the Aston feels tauter and somehow smaller than the XK8, even though the

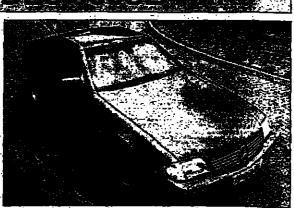
dimensions are similar. Being part of the same Ford family should not be a problem, although the XK8's value for money could be trying for Aston. Look for some Aston derivatives soon to try to catch the eve.

ext to an XK8, Mercedes SL looks expensive, fat ... and damned ugly. The years have not been kind to the SL. and with every passing birthday, it looks more and more like the starlet who piled on the pounds and sprinted past her sell-by

The SL looked a stunner at launch - but then there was barely anything else on the road to compare it with apart from the XJS, which was aiready so old it made the SL look positively anorexic and feel as nimble as George Best in his heyday.

Now Best would be hardpressed to run a traffic light. never mind a full ninety minutes, while Mercedes answered the competition by loading more into the SL: bigger engines, more gadgets, more everything, except for a stereo fitted as standard.

The result in the SL500, which offers almost similar performance to an XKS, is of a bloated, muscle-bound motor - like being lugged by one of the Gladiators rather than wafted and beguiled. Acceleration is bludgeoning. but the sound feedback from tile Merc's V8 is industrial rather than seductive. However, the handling is as safe and sound as you would expect from a Mercedes. huge rear tyres spreading themselves all over the road seemingly defying the gods to overcome their sticking power and the traction con-



By comparison, it's both overweight and overpriced

Model: Mercedes \$1500. Engine 5-litre, 32-valve V8 developing 326bhp through five-speed automatic transmission driving rear

Top speed: 155mph (electronically limited). Consumption: 17.7mpg in town.

Dimensions: length 4.470mm, width 1.8i2mm. Price: £80,700 basic

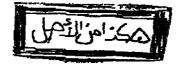
tred system to trick it into a flurry of wheelspin.

The interior of the car is about as welcoming as a prison cell. Mercedes gives you plenty of leather but the instrument dial remains functional to the point of monochrome boredom, the steering wheel apparently comes straight from the deck of a leather-bound yacht and the automatic gearbox is too notchy and twiddly for rapid use for all but the extremely. well practised. Of course, there is more equipment

a busy day, but that does not make the model more loveable. In fact, the SL — a car born in the 1980s when big was better - looks forlorn in the Nineties when swooping shapes and curves are in vogue and when its little sister, the SLK, looks cute.

There is another thing if you are deciding about buy. ing a new sports car, the \$L range starts at £57,700 for the 2.8-litre and zooms up f 197,450 for the SL60 AMCA and you still have to buy than even Nasa could use on your own stereo.

and cuddly.



Lord Chief Justice sets liberal tone with initiatives on human rights and life sentences

Bingham aims to banish mystery of jurors' room

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

yesterday paved the way for the first investigation into the secrets of the jury room. saying that he was in favour of allowing research into how juries reached their verdicts.

In his first public appearance as the most senior serving judge, Lord Bingham of Cornhill also made clear that he would lead judicial opposition to the Home Secretary's plans for tougher sentencing. expected in the Queen's

Lord Bingham is the first senior judge publicly to support a change in the law to allow research into how juries operate. The change was steadfastly opposed by his two predecessors. Lord Taylor of Gosforth and Lord Lane, although it is supported by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashlern, and was recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice in 1993.

Predecessors feared that it would encourage appeals based on what jurors did or said while considering a verdict. But Lord Bingham said come, without opening the door to these real dangers, to enable some very serious, real and objective - and anonymous - research into the way in which juries reach their decisions.

At present there was ignorance about how jurors reacted to judges' directions and how they would react to knowing previous convictions,

In his first press conference since taking office four months ago. Lord Bingham, 63 next week, set a liberal tone for his tenure. He urged incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law; ending of the Home Secretary's role in fixing life sentences; and the end of mandatory life sentences.

He denied that judges were too lenient, although he accepted that that was the "public perception". He was, however, in favour of giving the Attorney-General wider powers to appeal when sen-tences were considered

Lord Bingham stressed that he would be no less tough on the Government's proposals for sentencing changes than Lord Taylor, who retired much hope that the Home Secretary and Parliament will leave the judges with their sentencing discretion for the reasons rehearsed by my pre-

Judges, who had heard all the witnesses and were aware of complex issues, and the atmosphere generated in a case, "should not be told they have to do this or that or the other in a particular case, willy-nilly".

At the same time, Lord Bingham indicated that he wanted to stop any suggestion of a power battle between judges and government with judges taking on the Government through judicial review decisions. "Judges have gone to great lengths to make it clear that they are not usurping the decision-making powers of officials and that they bring no political axe to

He cautioned judges against speaking out in a way that could "undermine their reputation for impartiality and neutrality". But he said that



Lord Bingham in his office at the High Court. He will not shy away from opposing Tory sentencing plans

they had a part to play in discussions about matters. such as sentencing, within

their field of experience. Lord Bingham rejected any move to stop defendants acting for themselves and crossexamining their victims. "The public would be deeply of-fended to be told you must employ a lawyer," he said. It would be seen as the profession trying to entrench its monopolies still further.

On Mr Howard's proposals for mandatory life sentences position to judge." The case for

for second-time rapists and violent offenders, and minimum sentences for repeat burgiars and drug offenders. Lord Bingham said that there was no difference between Lord Taylor's views and his own, although he might have expressed them differently. The interests of justice are served by allowing judges, to the maximum extent, to tailor a sentence to the circumstances of a particular case,

which they are in a unique

ending mandatory life sentences for murder had, in his view, been made convincingly. On the Home Secretary's role in fixing the tariff — the period a prisoner jailed for life spends in jail — he preferred the system as applied to "discretionary" life prisoners under which the Parole Board decides the release date.

Lord Bingham said that he would be unhappy if Michael Howard's "two strikes and you're out" proposals found favour, unless there was some

qualification which enabled judges to depart from the rule in appropriate cases, giving

their reasons. He rejected the notion that judges were out of touch with society, saying that there had been a big change from a few years ago when "judges were characterised as bloodthirsty old men".

Now they were seen as "liberal pinkos who never punished anyone". "My own view is that neither of these is close to the truth," he said.

witness is

remanded

By LIN JENKINS A businessman who made

match-fixing allegations

against three footballers was

yesterday accused of offering

to fail to appear to give

evidence against one of them

in exchange for money. Chris

Vincent was remanded in custody for a week when he appeared at Aldershot Magis-

trates Court charged with

attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Mr Vincent, 38, of Holyport,

Berkshire, is a chief prosecu-

tion witness in the case of

Bruce Grobbelaar, the former

goalkeeper and Zimbabwe

international, and the former

Wimbledon players John Fashanu and Dutch-born

goalkeeper Hans Segers. The three footballers and

Heng Suan Lim, a Malaysian businessman, are to be tried on match-rigging allegations

at Winchester Crown Court in

January. They deny the charges and are on bail pend-

ing the hearing.

Newspaper libelled Bill Cash in satire

ENEWS WERE

A newspaper apologised and agreed to pay substantial libel damages to Bill Cash, MP for Stafford, over the use of his name in a satirical article. The piece, in The Scots-man, depicted a "William Cash-Purchase MP" as "cynical, corrupt and disbonest, Mr Cash's solicitor, Richard Martin, told Mr Justice French in the High Court.

Sperm case ends

Sir Stephen Brown, President of the High Court Family Division, reserved judg-ment on the submission by a 30-year-old Midlands widow for the right to have a baby using her late husband's

Russells funeral

The funerals of Lin and Megan Russell, killed at Chillenden. Kent, in July, will be held today at Dolbenmaen, near Caernarion. The procession to church will be lead by Shaun Russell and daughter Josie, who survived the attack

Plane loses wheel

A cargo plane made an emergency landing at Belfast airport when a wheel from its undercarriage was found on the runway after it had taken off from Coventry. The plane landed safely and there were no injuries.

Soccer case Long haul flight

Birdwatchers were out in force yesterday after a black. and white warbler, a rare North American visitor to Britain blown here by westerly gales, was spotted in a garden near Beachy Head, East Sussex.

£10m Beauty

A £10 million musical production of the Walt Disney cartoon Beauty and the Beast will open in London next year. The show, which opens on May 13 at the Dominion theatre, is in its third year on Broadway.

Top botanist dies

65, head of Cambridge University's Department of Plant Sciences, died in a collision with a car as he cycled to his in Little Eversder Cambridgeshire. He was one of Britain's leading botanists

Fire rocks band

The Scottish rock bail Runrig were "absolutely de-astated" after their manage ment offices and fan club in Aberdeen were destroyed in an early morning fire. Plans to release an album on Mon day are unaffected.

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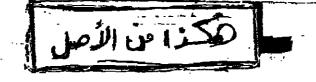


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Wests' house will be ground to dust to obliterate all traces

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

POLICE are once again on guard outside 25 Cromwell Street, the house in Gloucester where Frederick and Rosemary West murdered and buried their victims. On Monday morning, work will start un demolishing the house, brick by brick, and officials are anxious to prevent souvenir hunters making

off with mementoes.

The bricks, rubble and masonry will be ground to dust, and the wood burnt to ashes. Gloucester council is spending more than £120,000 to rid the city of its most unwanted tourist attraction, where the bodies of nine young women were found in 1994,

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Madlands widow

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The council has paid £40,000 to the Official Solicitor, who sold the three-storey property on behalf of five of the couple's children, and a similar sum for the adjoining house. The demolition, after which the site will be filled in and concreted over, will cost £27,000. The council says it will spend an

what victims' relatives and the community wish to see in place of the house. A memorial garden is said to be a "possibility, if not a frontrunner". A change in the street's name is also planned. Jon Holmes, the council leader and a local solicitor, said: "The rubble, brick and masonry will be ground to dust. The timber will be

dent consultation study to find our

taken to a secure place and burnt to ashes. We do not want a Berlin Wall scenario with people taking away macabre souvenirs. If the house stayed there it would attract the wrong sort of person."



The "house of horrors", right, in Cromwell Street, Gloucester, will be pulled down brick by brick over the next three weeks

wrought iron sign that once hung on the house wall is at the centre of a legal tussle and is retained by police. Senior members of the family are understood to have laid claim to the sign, which was made

His wife is serving life imprisonment in Durham jail after being convicted of ten murders. West hanged himself in his remand cell at Winson Green prison, Bir-mingham, on New Year's Day 1995. West died intestate and his wife forfeited her claim to any benefit from his estate after her

Their house was never put on the open market. However the Official Solicitor, Peter Harris, who was responsible for managing West's estate on behalf of his five children aged under 18, let it be known that it was for sale. There was only one inquiry — from the local authority,

Apart from the house, the only other items of real value in West's estate are 120 tape recordings made by police of their interviews with him, together with 20 hours of tapes recorded in prison by his original solicitor, Howard Ogden, and a 100-page memoir he wrote in

Their value lies in the information they provided for the officiallyapproved book on Frederick West, written by the former Times journalist, Geoffrey Wansell. He was commissioned by Mr Harris, as guardian of the children's interests. to write West's life story. An Evil Love: The Life of Frederick West was published last month by Hodder Headline, which paid a six-figure sum for the rights. It goes into paperback soon and could net the children, who will share the proceeds with Mr Wansell, up to



Positive image: this portrait, by Chief Petty Officer Paul Cowpe, won first prize in the monochrome section of the annual Royal Navy photographic awards, presented in London yesterday

Sunken trawler 'was spying on Soviet submarines for Navy'

By MICHAEL EVANS

A BRITISH fishing trawler that sank off Norway with the loss of 36 crew members more than 20 years ago might have collided with a Soviet submarine while spying for the Royal Navy, a television documentary will claim next week.

An official inquiry into the sinking of the Gaul concluded that the fishing Arctic seas in a storm in 1974. However, according to ITV's Network First; new research provides evidence that the trawl-

er had been engaged in spying on Soviet naval activities off the North Cape of Norway where Soviet submarines operated during the Cold War.

The programme, to be screened next Tuesday at 10.40pm, claims there was a high-level cover-up to avoid a confrontation between Soviet and British authorities. Yesterday. Max Gold, a solicitor acting for some of the deceased's reladean about the trawler's role.

Allegations have been made in the past by the relatives that the Gaul might have

been caught up in an official spying operation. Former trawler skippers have added to the mystery by claiming to have been recruited by MI6 to spy on the Soviets. One former skipper, Mason Redfearn, claimed in January that dur-ing the 1960s and 1970s, British trawlerphotographed Soviet warships

under the cover of fishing. The Royal Navy denied yesterday that asked to spy on Soviet warships. The official said the North Cape had been a highly sensitive area, and during the Cold

War British trawlermen would voluntarily provide intelligence of Soviet naval activity to the Navy when they returned home because they felt it was in the national interest.

"But they were never tasked to do this either by the Royal Navy or by British intelligence," the Navy spokesman said. He said there was no evidence that the Gaul crew had been passing intelligence

The Navy official said there had been no suggestion at the time that the fishing trawler had been hit by a submarine,

adding that the inquiry had rightly concluded that the Gaul was overwhelmed by beavy seas. However, the ITV film claims that on its last voyage the trawler spent three days in Soviet waters close to Soviet submarine bases and well

away from its normal fishing ground. Mr Gold urged the Government to open talks with its Russian counterparts to identify the body of a man in a snowmen were found on the Arctic coastline two months after the Gaul disappeared. Two are thought to have been British.

Barclay twins lose legal fight for privacy

By Russell Jenkins

THE Barclay brothers yesterday lost their High Court challenge after complaining that a BBC2 reporter had invaded their privacy. David and Frederick Barclay, 61. who own *The European* and the

Ritz, had sought a judicial review into a decision by the Broadcasting Complaints Commission not to investigate the complaint they made after John Sweeney, of the media programme The Spin, turned up uninvited at their Channel island home last year seeking an interview. The commission had said that, under present laws, they had no power to investigate until after programme had been

Mr Justice Sedley ruled against their application, which had been fiercely contested by both the commission and the BBC. The corporation had feared that it could hamper documentary-makers before their programmes were shown. The judge said in a written judgment that the disputed Section 143 of the 1990 Broadcasting Act unambiguously limited the power of the commission to adjudicate on complaints about infringements of

The judge said there were no general constraints upon invasions of privacy, in law. The individual had no effective remedy before a national authority if his right to privacy was violated.

"For those who consider that privacy is a right which needs protection in English law, and for those concerned with the conformity of the United Kingdom's law with the standards set out in the European Convention on Human Rights, the argument will not end here." The Barclay twins were refused leave to appeal.

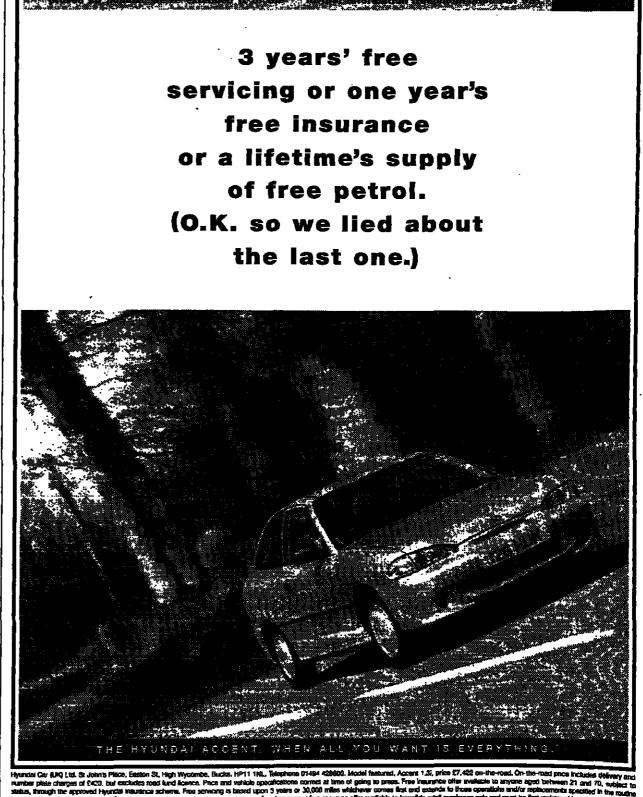
When, in August last year, The Spin asked for an interview with the brothers, on their ownership of The European and their fortified home which was being built on Brecqhou, the programme was refused. Mr Sweeney arrived on the island in a dinghy armed with a radio microphone and had to be removed. His researches were later used in an article in The Observer and broadcast on The Spin.

Mark Shaw, for the commission, told the judge: "No doubt there was an invasion but Parliament has taken the view that a line has to be drawn and that line is after there Barclays' application, if allowed. would have amounted to a gagging order on broadcasters, he said.

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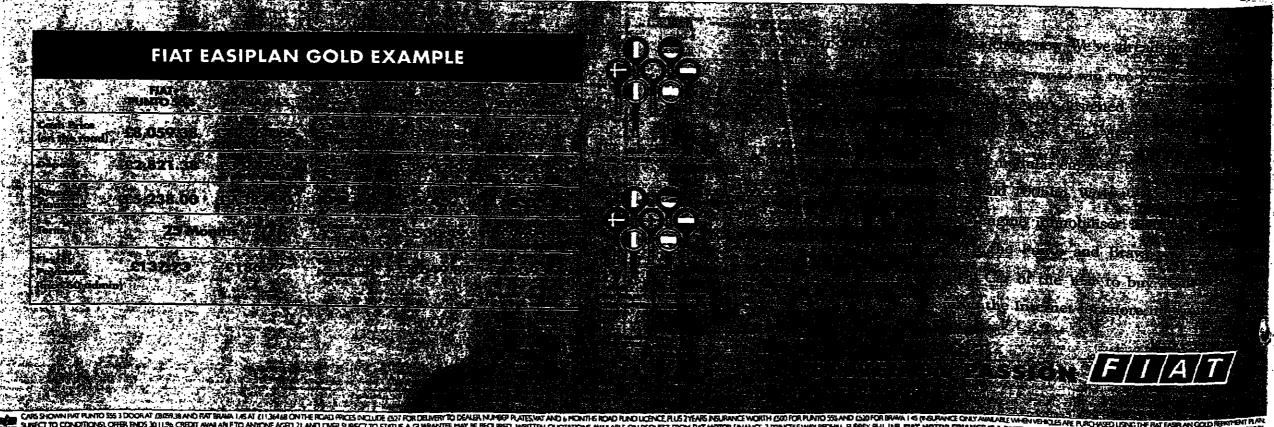




WHICH FIAT HAS WON THE CAR OF THE YEAR AWARD?

CORRECT.





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Women priests bring Church new harmony

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN priests, far from dividing the Church of England, have helped to foster a new spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness, according to the early results of a year-long study.

A fundamental loyalty to the Church has meant that even the most hardline opponents have made efforts to overcome their hostility and to be friends with newly ordained women. Less than a third of the (,000) priests expected to resign over the issue have done so, although funding was set aside to award compensation to them.

Early findings of the study, by the Edward King Institute, a voluntary organisation, suggest that the Church of England may have been strengthened by the admission of women to its priestly orders. One hundred male and female priests, as well as lay people. Church officials and opponents of women priests, were asked to keep journals for a year after the first ordinations at Bristol Cathedral in spring 1994.

The journals were assessed at consultations this week at Trevelyan College. Durham University. The final report is due shortly and the results will appear in the January edition of the institute's

journal, Ministry.
Canon David Durston, chancel-lor of Salisbury Cathedral and one of four people leading the consultations, said: "There are many people in the Church who are or were upset about women priests, but who are still loyal to the Church. That loyalty has been a very

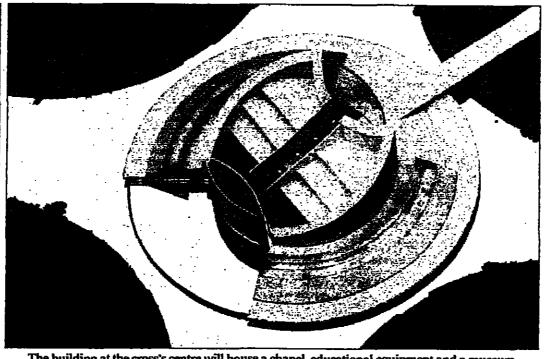
important factor in holding the Church together through this period of change. Some people saw this change as disruptive, but now the change has been made and many have experienced the ministry of women priests, they are

Nearly 2,000 women have been ordained, although fewer than half are stipendiary. This means that, on average, one in six parishes will have the services of a stipendiary or non-stipendiary woman priest.

Canon Durston said: "There has been a release of energy and a flowering of gifts on the part of women priests. For many, the ordination opened opportunities to new areas of service. This has been appreciated enormously by their

He said that the consultations had produced surprising evidence affinity between men and women priests. Instead of becoming implacable enemies, these clergy used their Christian principles to work hard to forge friendships, in order to live in harmony with their differences. "We have discov-ered friendships that are almost deeper because of the divide," Canon Durston said.

He said, however, that the study had found that great unhappiness remained, in particular on the part of opponents of women priests who did not want to leave the Church but now felt "aliens" in what they had once called their home.



The building at the cross's centre will house a chapel, educational equipment and a museum

Millennium 'cathedral' planned to celebrate early British saints

BY RUTH GLEDIIILL

A CENTRE for religious history and learning in the shape of a Celtic cross is being planned for the millennium to celebrate the parts played by the British saints. Cuthbert and Bede, in bringing Christianity to England. Funding from the Millennium Commission is being sought to help to finance the £53 million Northumberland Cross "cathedral".

The scheme, submitted to the commission by Northumberland County Council, is one of the most ambitious and spectacular conceived to celebrate the millenni-At Your Service, the building would form the beekend, page 17 jewel of a giant St Cuthbert's



The cross is formed by lakes

Cross, with four large lakes forming the arms". The building at the centre of the cross will contain an exhibition, a museum, a chapel and a room for quiet reflection, to be called the Gospels Vault. It will

equipment, with a live link to schools and other institutions in the area. It will be entered through a sculpted granite podium, and at the centre of the building will be a cathedral-style nave, its inspiration drawn from early church architecture.

The county council has already set aside land worth £6.5 million at Cramlington. Visitors are expected to number 350,000 a year. Ken Morris, the council's managing director, said: "This cathedral would have enormous relevance.

"We feel our scheme is exciting and relevant to the millennium. particularly with it being the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of

Credo

Foursquare truth comes full circle

Ian Goodhardt

The end: and then the beginning

again.
This just about sums up the Jewish festival of Simchath Torah, which occurs tomorrow. It is the day upon which the annual cycle of reading the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, is concluded and immediately recommenced.

Beginnings and endings are an intrinsic part of life. Life itself begins and ends, and within each life relationships, jobs, projects of all sorts are embarked upon and concluded, often only to begin again. The rabbis, as always, have advice: "All beginnings are difficult": and again, "It all depends on the conclusion". While the early stages of any venture are especially demanding, as one

struggles to get to grips with a new way of behaving or new skills, the value of that venture lies in what it eventually produces. There is deep wisdom in these two apparently banal aphorisms. When a child struggles with all the complexities of life, falls down

and has to get up and try again and again. how comforting are those words: "Don't worry, all beginnings are difficult." A first driving lesson, the first week of a new job, the early years of a marriage or, more sadly, the early part of widowhood, the new mode of life

which follows any dramatic change: they are all hard, and the wisdom of the ages is there to sympathise and encourage.

But sometimes it is the other way about. The beginning is already a distant memory. What we seek now is some light at the end of the tunnel. When a worker is involved in a large project, lost in the detail with no clear sense why it is worth continuing, those other words come ringing towards him: "There are few points just for trying. It all depends on a successful conclusion. Persistence is the key. Stay focused on the goal you set."

Almost everything in our life begins and ends. Almost everything. For the reading of the Bible, there is no ending. The urgency with which

the annual Torah reading will be restarted tomorrow, only a few minutes after the completion of the previous year's reading, speaks volumes. Human beings need inspiration to help them to complete the tasks life presents, and the idea that anyone should

have to go more than a few days without hearing the uplifting words of The Book was anathema to early Jewish leaders.

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Ian Goodhardt is Rabbi of the

Macleod supporters call talks in Wee Frees row

By Shirley English

A THIRD of ministers in the Free Church of Scotland will meet for emergency talks on Monday to discuss the "shameful treatment" of the Reverend Donald Macleod.

They are said to be angered by the "ludicrous and contradictory" decision of the church's Commission of Assembly to investigate Professor Macleod for heresy. At the same hearing this week, the cleared three ministers of allegations that they had plotted against Professor Macleod, who teaches at the Free Church College in Edinburgh and was cleared of indecent assault charges in

The emergency meeting, thought to be taking place in Perth, has increased speculation of an imminent split within the 153-year-old Presbyterian church. The division appears to be between the fundamentalists, represented



Macleod: facing inquiry over heresy claims

by the alleged conspirators, and the modernisers, who back Professor Macleod.

Yesterday the Rev Alex MacDonald, minister at Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church in Edinburgh, who called the meeting, said there was no strict agenda: "No one envisaged that the Commission would come up with anything so ludicrous

and contradictory. Things are

ters in the "Wee Frees" are expected to attend, including Commission's decision was made public on Thursday.

Such following as I have is mainly in the pews, but the brethren have been very ment. The reaction I have had from some is that the lunatics appear to have taken over the asylum."

serious. There are no proposals for a split, but there is nothing ruled out what-

Around 30 of the 100 minis-Professor Macleod, 55. He said his phone had hardly stopped ringing since the

Professor Hugh Cartwright, one of the three identified by

the Commission as ministers who "may have lost the confidence of many in the church", said last night he had never been named as a conspirator nor been involved in a campaign to have Professor Mac-leod removed from office.

WEICH CAME FIRST, PC OR

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it's happening even as we speak.



MERSETSIBE A'pool of talent



At 6pm on Friday. October 24, Newton met Scott -- the troublesome

homosexual lover of the Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe planning to take him onto Exmoor and shoot him. But there was a hitch: Rinka, Scott's great dane bitch, was

Part 3 of the Jeremy Thorpe story - News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

with him ...

Gardens outgrow fitted kitchens in the ideal home

DEVOTEES of the ideal home have trooped out of the kitchen into the garden. House owners intent on improving their property now add a patio or pergola, rejuvenate the lawn and flower beds or redesign the whole garden rather than install a fitted kitchen, accord-

ing to a survey yesterday.
The Halifax Building Society said homeowners were becoming greenfingered to improve their standard of living rather than because were planning to put their properties on the market. "One person's garden im-provements could be someone lse's garden disaster," a spokesman said. "Clearly our customers are increasingly finding gardening relaxing and enjoyable."

Despite a recovering prop-erty market. Central Statistical Office figures show that homeowners are staying put for an average of seven years rather than the five of the IMPROVEMENTS

1980s boom. Sales hover around a million a year, compared with two million then. When people move less often they work on longer-

term improvements such as gardening, the Halifax said. The keenest gardeners are in South Wales and the West. where 40 per cent of customers made such improvements, compared with 17 per cent in Scotland. Those selling their homes saw garden improvements as a desirable extra, along with home security, tories. Over half of Halifax customers viewed a fitted kitchen, a modern bathroom, double glazing, a garage and a

of a new home. The popularity of DIY is illustrated by the 33 per cent of

customers who did improvements themselves: 48 per cent used local firms. Homeowners in the South West installed the most fitted bedrooms and most meet beorrooms and conservatories. The South East had the most — 14 per cent — with DIY as a hobby. Fourteen per cent of them spend their spare time putting up shelves. Northerners had converted

the most lofts, the Scots regarded double glazing and central heating as necessities, Londoners and Midlanders were keenest on home security and the East had the most extensions. Seventy per cent of customers paid for improvements from savings. Only 14 per cent increased their mortgages.

Gardening, Weekend, page 4 Property, Weekend, pages 11, 12 House Style. Magazine, page 83



Discovery of rare plant in meadow threatened by Heathrow expansion embarrasses BAA

A RARE plant has been found by naturalists in the path of the proposed new Terminal 5 at Heathrow airport to the embarrassment of the developers.

The find challenges claims by BAA that it carried out a rigorous environgroups said yesterday. The plant, a small meadow species called water avens, was believed to be extinct in the Greater London area and possibly the South

The discovery of the colony of Geum

sports pink-purple flowers, was made near the village of Longford by Ralph Gaines of the London Wildlife Trust and Jacqueline Shane, a critic of the proposed terminal, who lives Richmond.The meadow is due to be bulldozed for a new spur road linking Heathrow to the M25 if the terminal is

approved.

Mr Gaines, head of conservation at the trust, part of the national network of county wildlife trusts, said yesterday that BAA had failed to declare the presence of the plant in its environmental submis-

sion to the inquiry.

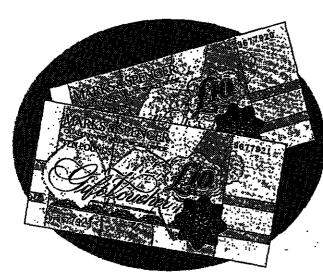
Cowslips, which have declined in

meadow but were absent from the research carried out for BAA by its ecological consultants. BAA said yesterday that it was aware of the colony and denied it had withheld its existence from the inquiry inspector. The road aspects of the proposed Terminal 5 were being submitted separately because it was more a matter for the Department of Transport and a study had begun to find a suitable new site for the plant.

> Letters, page 21 Flora Britannica, Weekend, page 28

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Award for novelist on Booker shortlist

ROHINTON MISTRY, the awarded a 1996 Commonwealth Writers Prize, worth £10,000.

Announcing the award in Harare, Zimbabwe, Dr Humayun Khan, director of the Commonwealth Foundation, said the book was a worthy winner in a strong field. "It is a novel of power and conviction that cannot fail to engage the reader with its naturalistic exploration of the painful re-alities of some aspects of indian society."

Mistry's first book, Such a Long Journey, won the prize in 1991 and was also shortlisted for the Booker. He has become the only writer in the history of the prize to have his first and second novels shortlisted.

Alastair Niven, literature director of the Arts Council and a previous judge of the Commonwealth and Booker prizes, speculated as to whether the Commonwealth win would affect the Booker decision. "Speaking as a former judge of the Booker, I know we tried to put out of our mind external considerations.

Books, Weekend, pages 14-15

Man held on Bondi killing is given bail

By Rachel Bridge

THE man accused of murdering a British towards ing a British tourist on Bondi Beach was yesterday released from prison on bail despite prosecution claims that he was short-tempered and had a

"don't give a damn" attitude. Aaron Martin is alleged to have killed Brian Hagland, 28, as the Londoner returned with his girlfriend from a party in the Sydney resort. After evidence from his mother and sister, Mr Martin was released on bail of A\$25,000 (£12,700) on condition that he does not drink alcohol, obeys a curfew from 8pm to 7am and attends regular meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Judge Vince Bruce also ordered that Mr Martin, 22, live with his sister, be accompanied by a relative when he goes out and report to police daily. His mother said: Deep down he is a kind and gentle person and he has got our

support." appeal against bail when Mr Martin reappears in court next month, said that he was attracted to brutal violence and would be a threat to the community if released. Mr Martin's lawyers said that he would be pleading not guilty to murder.

THE BOOK THAT TOOK AMERICA AND **BRITAIN BY STORM** 'A wonderful read...a hell of a book' Independent OUT NOW IN VINTAGE PAPERBACK

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Labour conference

The time to hesitate is over, Prescott tells floating voters

CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

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JOHN PRESCOTT put the Labour Party on election footing yesterday with a declaration that "victory is within our grasp after seventeen long

In a barnstorming end-ofconference speech, the deputy leader rallied the party faith-ful, telling them they had only 200 days to ensure that Tony Blair became Prime Minister. Mr Prescott also announced

that ballot papers were being sent out to the party's 400,000 members and 2.6 million affiliated trade unionists to approve the party's draft manifesto. The move follows a conference vote on the document, which won support from 95 per cent of the 1.252 delegates. It also came after a defeat-free week for the party in which unions and constituency activists presented a uni-

Mixing a strong appeal for unity with jokes about the Tories, he urged Labour supporters and floating voters to get off the sidelines. The time to hesitate is over. I appeal to you to join us in membership.



join us in campaigning and make a decision."

He recalled the despair of defeat at the last election, saying: "Never, never again." The image of Neil Kinnock conceding defeat at the party's headquarters in Walworth Road would be extinguished only "when we see Tony Blair on the steps of 10 Downing Street, announcing a magnificent Labour victory in the next general election".

Labour wanted only a chance to serve, he said, recalling a phrase of John Smith's at a dinner on the eve of his death. "That will give new hope to pensioners, new hope to young people, new hope to the low paid and

families, new hope for indus-try. New hope for the whole of the British people. We've had enough lies, enough sleaze, enough excuses. Enough is enough. We are united and ready to govern. This was the week when old and new came together — a Labour Party nited, a Britain united. A new Labour government." In a series of gibes at the

Tories he called the Prime Minister Galloping Major — running scared of Labour. running scared of his own MPs and running scared of an election." There was more bad news for Mr Major, he said. "They're closing his favourite eating place — the Happy Eater. He's so depressed. The Happy Eater was the only place to take his order."

Turning to the latest allegations of Tory party sleaze, Mr Prescott deftly avoided any mention of Baroness Turner of Camden, who was sacked from the Labour front bench on Thursday because of her connections with the lobbying firm Ian Greer Associates. He called for the former Tory minister Neil Hamilton's immediate resignation as an MP but said that Mr Major could not afford to lose him as he



John Prescott: "Ask yourself each day, 'can I do more to secure a Labour victory?" "

was the party's "immoral ma-

jority of one". He went on: "I'd like to ask John Major this: what morality is there ... In one man making £34 million out of rail privatisation, when so many of our people live in poverty? Where's the morality in people being bussed from one hospital to another, begging to be

admitted? Where's the morality in record crime? In record unemployment? Record bankruptcies? Record poverty? All the product of deliberate government policy. That's what I call immoral.

There was an alternative. He urged party members to vote for the draft manifesto,

real difference to the lives of ordinary people. But it would not be enough simply to put a cross in the right box.

During the next 200 days

ask yourself each day: did I do enough today, could I have done more to secure a Labour victory? Let that question stay in your mind right up to the

Leaders seek to give members a greater say

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership wants to modernise the annual conference to give party members more say in the

policymaking process. Yesterday Tom Sawyer, the general secretary, mocked the present arrangements and told delegates that there were "scores of ways" in which the conference could be improved. don't believe that hundreds of people out there hopefully waving their hands in the air at the possible but remote opportunity of having three minutes at this rostrum really does add up to a democratic. conference-making process,"

he said. But he was forced to return to the hall later to dispel some activists' fears that the leadership would impose changes on the party. "The only way that the role of conference can be altered is by conference debat-ing and making the decision to change that role.

Senior figures are investigating ways of enabling all party members to have greater influence on their delegates. There is also a proposal to shorten the conference, which at five days is seen by some as

too long.

A review of the party structure, including the role of the conference and the National Executive Committee, is expected to be completed early next year. But the party says

to next year's conference, At the heart of the review is

a proposal to give all constituency parties and union leaderships prior access to policy motions that will be debated. At present, complicated policy motions are drawn up only on the eve of the conference. leaving decision-making to the 1,250 delegates, who are un-able to consult fellow activists on the final motion.

The leadership says that the increasing membership, now approaching 400,000, should be consulted more frequently. It cites the party-wide ballot over the rewording of Clause Four of the party's constitution and the forthcoming vote on the draft manifesto as examples of members having more

However, some long-standing party members suggest that plans to increase the influence of constituency members, many of whom have joined since Tony Blair became leader, are designed to weaken the grip over the conference of union delegates and "old Labour" activists.

Senior figures agree that drawing up policy motions well in advance will help to avoid the usual eve-of-confer-ence conflict. Mr Sawyer emphasised the need to avoid disputes between the party and a Labour government.

Archer's flight leaves Tories disappointed

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

JEFFREY ARCHER has ended his role as the Tory party's chief cheerleader by declining any further speaking engagements from constituency asso-

The millionaire novelist to support Jack Kemp, the Republican vice-president. rather than attend the Tory conference, which starts in Bournemouth on Tuesday. Lord Archer of Weston

super-Mare's conspicuous absence, for the first time in 20 years, has heightened speculation that his relationship



Archer: rejected dozens of speaking requests

with the party is not the love affair that it was. He flew to America after being asked to help Mr Kemp, an old friend, to prepare for a televised debate with Al Gore, the Vice-President.

His decision has caused deep concern at Conservative Central Office. "Jeffrey is a tonic for the troops and one of our most energetic campaigners," a Tory source said. "I hope he is not offended."

But there is a strong suspicion among Tory MPs that he is. Since the end of July he has turned down dozens of speaking requests. Lord Archer. who friends say was disappointed not to have been

given a ministerial job in the last reshuffle, spoke last year to 141 associations, travelling more than 24,000 miles and raising £1.4 million.

His pulling power at constituency events is legendary.
At his last engagement, for Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, the room was so crowded that some guests brought their own tables, plates and cutlery.

A chairman of one West Midlands association said: "It's standing room only when Jeffrey comes. He charms people to death, delivers a good speech and we can even get autographed copies of his book. He is marvellous for fundraising."
Now all speaking requests

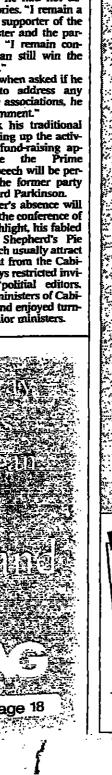
are being turned away with a polite but unequivocal letter f regret from Lord Archer, whose staff say he is "not available". Central Office has received many complaints. But vesterday Lord Archer

insisted that he had not deserted the Tories. "I remain a 100 per cent supporter of the Prime Minister and the party." he said. "I remain convinced we can still win the next election."

However, when asked if he had plans to address any Conservative associations, he said: "No comment."

Next week his traditional role of cheering up the activists with a fund-raising appeal before the Prime Minister's speech will be performed by the former party chairman Lord Parkinson.

Lord Archer's absence will also deprive the conference of its social highlight, his fabled "Krug and Shepherd's Pie parties", which usually attract a full turnout from the Cabinet. He always restricted invitations to "politial editors, editors and ministers of Cabinet status", and enjoyed turn-ing away junior ministers.







Sultan's return raises Yemen energy hopes



Sultan Quaiti when ruler



TWENTY-NINE years after he was forced into exile by a to pull out of the Aden imbroglio, a former ruler of south Arabia has been welcomed home with huge tribal rejoicspeed the development of Yemen's vast gas and oil

Sultan Glalib al-Quaiti, at the age of 19, was the youngest ruler of the largest protectorate linked to the ill-fated South Arabian Federation before the British were forced to leave by the nationalist uprising in Aden. After his departure and subsequent exile in Saudi Arabia, he went to university in Britain, gaining degrees at both Oxford and Cambridge in Islamic history and Islamic

The Sultan, closely related to the Nizam of Hyderabad, is an intellectual who speaks half-a-dozen languages and understands Tuareg. Described by friends as a serious. devout Muslim proud of his ancestry, he is a connoisseur of Muslim art, boasts an extensive collection of swords and has a valuable collection of rare books on Arabia. He completed a management training course in Britain and worked for Shell. The Sultan ruled Quaiti

Hadramaut, one of the harshest stretches of the Arabian coast, for only 11 months after the death of his father in 1966. In the chaos that surrounded the collapse of British rule, he was effectively abandoned by George Brown, then Labour Foreign Secretary, who committed Britain to recognition of the Marxist guerrillas - the National Liberation Front and the Front for the Liberation of South Yemen. "He always believed that the British Government was indirectly responsible." his wife said yesterday.

The Sultan returned to Yemen last month, where he was received with ceremony by the Government in Sanaa and members of the Yemeni Socialist Party politburo. He then flew home to Mukalla, the capital of Hadramaut, to an ecstatic reception. A caval-

cade of more than 40 cars accompanied him to his hotel, clapped and Beduin recited poems. "Forgive, O Sultan." one ran. "Your people ask for forgiveness, acknowledging 'Yes' to the Sultan." He is now the guest of tribesmen in Wadi Hadramaut, a desert valley.

Sultan Quaiti, "advised" by Britain to go to Geneva at the time of the coup, attempted briefly to recapture his throne, sailing from Saudi Arabia to Mukalla, as the colonial Government would not allow him passage through Aden. The British-backed Hadrami Bedoutn Legion refused to allow him to land, however, and the Marxist NLF boarded his

South and North Yemen united in 1992, and the Sanaa Government, after the discovery of extensive oil and gas reserves, now needs the expertise of bankers and businessmen to cope with the expected energy boom. It has promised to discuss restoring the Sul-



Kristina with her parents, Richard and Shanna Jacobson, after her ordeal ended with her kidnapper's death

Child sees marksman kill her kidnapper

Roseburg, Oregon: Kristina Jacobson. seven, hugged two new teddy bears and arranged her sweets by colour on a hospital blanker, apparently unaffected by seeing police kill her kidnapper after a wild 100-mile car chase.

The gunman was shot as he sat with Kristina in an overturned car on Interstate 5 in southern Oregon. "I can

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still picture him right in my head when he died, Kristina said shortly after her three-and-a-half hour ordeal.

Lance Sterling Alexander, 25, had abducted the Salem girl from a day-care centre on Thursday and led police on a chase at speeds of up to 110mph. He fired shots at other cars and hit ten, grazing the neck of one woman. A man and child

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were injured by flying glass. After his car ran over spikes set up by police, negotiations took place for about an hour while Alexander held a gun on the girl. Then a marksman shot him.

Kristina, treated in hospital for small metal fragments in a leg after the crash, later went home with her parents, Richard and Shanna Jacobson.

Death Row wedding for Night Stalker

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A MAN who murdered and 36, also known as the Night dismembered 13 people in the 1980s has been married on death row to a freelance magazine writer. Her family does not approve.

Doreen Lioy, 41, became an object of bewilderment and outrage with her prison engagement to Richard Ramirez.

Stalker, in 1988. Relatives of her fiance's victims have condemned San Quentin prison for allowing Ramirez to marry, while Ms Lioy's family boycotted the wedding. Prison officials said the couple will not be allowed to consummate the marriage.

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one of 10 books FREE when you buy a book from either the Penguin Classic series or the Penguin 20th Century Classics list from a Blackwell's bookshop before November 30, 1996. The list of free books is on the voucher which was published in Freshers, Guide to Student Life, delivered free with last Monday's Times. All the details of this offer are on page 10 of the Guide. You need to collect a further three



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EXECUTIVE VOICE

Allan Bridgewater explains changes at Norwich Union **PAGE 26**

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WORKING WEEK

Howard Davies at home at the Bank of England **PAGE 27**



SPORT

Pakistan teenager smashes one-day hundred record **PAGES 42-48**

THE HIDDEN **ASSETS OF RMC GROUP**

> **PAGE** 27

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY OCTOBER 5 1996

Reed considers Bloomberg takeover

By ERIC REGULY

REED ELSEVIER has evaluated Bloomberg Business News as a possible acquisition and has consulted advisers about buying into the American financial information group. The Anglo-Dutch publishing group has stated that it hopes to make a multibillion-dollar acquisition in America. Bloomberg is estimated to be worth \$3 billion and would catapult Reed into the forefront of the real-time

financial information industry. Reed would not comment about Bluomberg and no deal is thought to be

that Nigel Stapleton, co-chairman of Reed, might welcome the opportunity to open negotiations with Michael Bloomberg, the flamboyant former Salomon Brothers trader who founded Bloomberg in the early 1980s and owns 70 per cent of the company. Merrill Lynch, the Wall Street securities house. owns the rest.

Bloomberg and Reed are no strangers to each other. In April, Reed announced that the Bloomberg daily market surveys would be available on Reed's Nexis-Lexis on-line information service. Bloomberg and Reed said that they have "formed a long-term partnership in which they will explore

strengths of both companies".

Bloomberg is the fastest growing competitor to Reuters. It made its name by developing a user-friendly analytical tool for bond traders and its terminals have since become more sophisticated. Mr Bloomberg's empire now includes a news service, magazines, newsletters and radio stations.

Bloomberg has about 53,000 terminals in use compared with the 340,000 at Reuters. Financial information about the company is scant because it is private. Bloomberg had estimated operating cashflow of \$260 million last year. Turnover was about \$650 mil-

lion, up from \$520 million in 1994. Based on the £12.7 billion market value of Reuters, equivalent to almost five times last year's turnover, analysts said that Bloomberg could be worth \$3 billion.

An acquisition of that size is well rithin Reed's reach. The company, jointly owned by Reed International of the UK and Elsevier of The Netherlands, has built up a cash pile from the sale of its consumer businesses.

It is not known whether Mr Bloomberg is willing to sell his controlling stake in Bloomberg, or take in an

Tempus, page 28

to halt policy 'scam' By MARIANNE CURPHEY

NU acts

NORWICH UNION has launched a top-level investiga-tion into allegations that financial advisers are encouraging "carpetbaggers" to make fraudulent backdated

applications for new policies.
The suspected scam follows NU's announcement that it intends to float on the stock market and pay each policy-holder a windfall of around

£500 in free shares. The inquiry will look into claims that at least one financial adviser, working in the South East, has been encouraging clients to apply for new policies and fraudulently

backdating applications to be-fore midnight on October 1, when membership was frozen. NU said yesterday: "We take this extremely seriously. In the first instance we will report anyone we find behaving in this way to the Personal Investment Authority. To go to the police we would need to prove that there had been criminal intent." It went on: "If an IFA who normally sends us

one or two forms a week suddenly submits 25, we will investigate. Most IFAs are honest... but there is always one bad apple. We will inter-view customers and look at whether cheques have been written out of sequence." The problem has arisen

because NU has promised to be flexible over the October 1 deadline, and has told advisers that it will accept "pipeline cases" — applications that had been completed but not processed — up to close of

business yesterday, James Duffell, NU spokes-man, said: "We are determined that innocent qualifying members will not lose out ... We do not want their entitlement diluted."

Weekend Money, page 29

JUNGSAGES

Norwich Union.

Free shares for

three million

Loans for landlords. An investment in the rental market

WEEKEND

Anne Ashworth

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With profits. Bonds for the long-term saver



WEEKEND MONEY GUIDES



Guide 2 Where to

US jobs data help equities to record

By Janet Bush, economics correspondent

LONDON shares bounded into record territory above the 4,000 level again after surprisingly weak American employment figures which allayed fears of higher US

The FT-SE 100 index jumped 24.4 points to close at a record 4,024.4. German shares in Frankfurt also hit a new high as American stocks and bonds surged after the jobs report which provided unexpected but clear vindication of the US Federal Reserve's recent decision not to

raise interest rates. The US unemployment rate increased to 5.2 per cent in September from 5.1 per cent in August and the number of jobs in the economy fell for the first time since January — a month when the economy had been abnormally depressed by winter blizzards and government shutdowns during an impasse on the American budget.

September saw non-farm payrolls decrease by a seasonally adjusted 40,000 after a healthy rise of 241,000 in August. Wall Street economists had expected 166,000 jobs to have been created

BUSINESS

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outside the agricultural sector. The number in manufacturing employment fell 57,000 in September having risen by 18,000 in August, a clear sign that American industry is losing some steam. average jumped 50 points to a after the figures before settling back to stand about 32 points higher in early afternoon

The Treasury bond market surged ahead with the benchmark 30-year bond up more than a full point at midday, allowing its yield to drop to 6.74 per cent. The euphoria in the US bond market spilt over into Europe where British government bonds posted gains of nearly a full point.

The positive implications for the US economy of what appears to be a spontaneous slowdown in growth, without the added depressive of higher interest rates, were not lost on Robert Reich, US Labor Secretary. He said that there was growing evidence that the economy had slowed down to a more sustainable pace from the 4.8 per cent growth seen in

the second quarter. He said he saw no sign of wages pushing up inflation and said that it was possible that unemployment could fall even further than the 5.1 per cent level recorded in August.

Joseph Stiglitz, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said that the jobs report was "consistentwith our view that the economy is continuing on its path of steady, sustained expansion". On September 24, the Feder-

al Open Market Committee opted to keep US interest rates unchanged, although many financial market participants had expected a small rise in the Fed Funds rate to help to slow the economy down and prevent any flare up of inflationary pressures.

Economists at HSBC James Capel said: "The Fed recognised the weakness in the real economy that has developed in the third quarter by leaving rates unchanged in September. This report vindicates

Markets, page 28



Eurotunnel shows banks its progress

By Jonathan Prynn TRANSPORT

CORRESPONDENT

sent its banks a timely re-minder of its rapidly improving operating performance as its 26 main lenders met in London to consider its £4 billion refinancing plan.

tember of last year.

expected on Monday.

of EU is marginal

By Our Economics Correspondent

THE economic effects on Britain if it chose to leave the European Union would be marginal, according to a new study published by the Insti-tute of Economic Affairs.

Better Off Out?: The Bene-fits or Costs of EU Membership by Brian Hindley and Martin Howe concludes that the gain or loss of withdrawal would probably be less than ! per cent of GDP.

this that a British government, faced with unacceptable political developments, should not be deterred from changing Britain's relationship with the EU, or even leaving as a last resort, because it fears adverse economic consequences.

"Our clear conclusion is that even the worst case (pulling out of the EU) wouldn't be economically disastrous. If politics should compel the country to go along that line, we shouldn't hold back because of economics."

The European Movement which boasts Edwina Currie and Peter Mandelson among its vice-chairmen - said the economic and political benefits of Britain's EU membership were both real and substantial. It particularly pointed out the benefits of

The IEA report acknowledged that Britain could lose out in this respect if the EU were to erect trade barriers on

Telekom sell-off prospectus issued

By ERIC REGULY

THE sale of Deutsche Telekom, the German Government's flagship privatistion and the largest European public offering of 1990, got under way in earnest yesterday with the publication of the

issue's prospectus. The German Government said it will sell 500 million Deutsche Telekom shares, about 20 per cent of the phone company's enlarged equity capital, to raise about DMI5 billion. The shares price range is to be announced on October 22 and the final price set by November 17. They are

to start trading on the Frankfurt and New unless they have German bank accounts. York stock exchanges on November 18. and in Tokyo a day later.

If the sale flops, Bonn's privatisation programme - from the railways to the post office - could be put in jeopardy. The challenge is to convince individual German investors, who have little experience in buying equities, to take the risk.

About 50 per cent of the issue is expected to be sold in Germany. Analysts said that North American and British investors could soak up most of the 50 per cent foreign tranche. However, foreigners will not be eligible for share discounts

Analysts think the shares will be priced at the middle or upper end of the expected DM20 to DM30 range. Joachim Kröske, Deutsche Telekom's finance director, said that the company will pay DM1.5 billion in dividends this year, rising to DM3 billion next year. This would give the shares a gross yield of about 5.7 per cent. against a yield of only about 2.1 per cent

for the German stock market as a whole. Deutsche Telekom expects profits from ordinary activities of DM6 billion next year, on turnover of DM60 billion, against DM4 billion this year.

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Please complete this coupon and send it to	r Kensington Mortgaga Company, FREEPOST LON 3379, London WS 48F	L
Name		ם
Address		
Postcode	Telephone	_

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE

OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

EUROTUNNEL yesterday

Channel Tunnel traffic figures for September showed that the total of tourist vehides carried on Le Shuttle trains more than doubled to 224,759, from 108,947 in Sep-

At a four-hour meeting, refinancing terms were put to the 26 "instructing banks" for consideration later. All 225 banks on the syndicate and two thirds of shareholders must ratify them. Details are

The authors conclude from

access to the single market.

Mr Howe said yesterday:

Securing a better future in a period of rapid change

will be celebrating its bicentenary. Earlier this we announced that we would also be seeking our members' support for the floration of Norwich Union on the London Stock Exchange. More than once. over the past few days. I've been asked why we now plan to move away from a mutual structure after such a long and successful history as a mutual society. The answer, put simply, is that we need to change our corporate structure now to ensure that we remain fully able to compete into the next century, and therefore to achieve the full potential of Norwich Union's business on our owners'

The floration proposal offers

several advantages. It will transfer ownership of our general insurance businesses from the life fund to shareholders, thereby reducing the exposure of our life and pension policyholders to the vola-tility and cyclicality of the general insurance markets. At the same time it will unlock the "hidden value" of our general insurance and overseas subsidiaries, and improve our access to capital

The insurance and investment markets are changing rapidly in a number of ways. There is a general recognition that the demand for long-term savings and pensions products is likely to grow steadily in coming years. Both in the UK and in the other countries where Ireland, France, Spain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand there is a clear recognition, among economists and politicians in all parties, of the need for change in the funding of welfare benefits. Demographic trends will make it impossible to sustain an ever-increasing burden through taxation alone. It will be essential to encourage those who are financialprovision for their retirement, for medical care and for long-term care. There is clearly a vital role for the insurance industry to play. underwriting and long-term investment skills.

At the same time, however, the insurance industry will face com-



Allan Bridgewater

example from banks and other financial institutions (who may see greater potential in this area than in their relatively flat traditional

markets) and from successful retailers. Like many other industries, we also anticipate that technology will continue to change the way customers choose to deal with us - for example, the telephone has rapidly become the preferred way of dealing with motor and household claims because we can give our customers a better and faster service. None of us can yet foresee the ultimate impact of newer technologies such

as the internet. Norwich Union is well placed today to meet these challenges we have a broad product and a strong reputation among customers for long-term investment. We are more tightly focused as a business on our individual customers than, for example, some

Union

condemns

Barclays

job cuts

BY ROBERT MILLER

A LEADING finance union

yesterday accused Barclays

Bank of "dumping more mis-

ery on staff in time for Christ-

mas" with the announcement of more than 200 job losses.

Bifu, the banking, insur-ance and finance union, said

that it had warned the bank's

staff "to be on the alert against

bullying or pressure to accept

what Barclays call targeted

voluntary redundancies". Bifu

added that Barclays and

NatWest had each cut more

Barclays dismissed Bifu's claim as "rubbish". A spokes-man said that the bank had

announced in March that it

was seeking 1,000 voluntary

redundancies among adminis-

trative staff by the end of the

year. To date, \$00 people had

volunteered and now the bank

had launched a drive to meet

Meanwhile, officials of Bifu

and the NatWest Staff Associ-

ation yesterday hailed an

agreement signed with Nat-

West Bank extending a "no

compulsory redundancy" deal

into next year and until further notice. However, Noel Howell, of Bifu, said: "NatWest is still

closing branches faster than

any other high street bank and

at the end of the present no

compulsory redundancy agree-

ment, thousands more jobs will

The UK banking sector is

still poised to shed tens of

thousands more jobs and close

hundreds of branches between

now and the end of the decade.

larged Lloyds TSB group

which has 3,000 branches, is

expected to launch a private

parliamentary bill seeking

powers to merge accounts without seeking individual

agreement from millions of

its target.

than 20,000 jobs since 1990.

other composite insurers, who also have large interests in commercial insurance overseas. There is no immediate need for us to expand by acquisition and we have made it very clear that we are not seeking to raise a "war chest". To maintain for our owners the value of our strong market position, however. we will need to be able to respond rapidly to the opportunities and challenges that will arise over the next few years.

Becoming a plc is clearly a significant step for us, but I am confident that Norwich Union is now ready to come to the stock investor support. For a number of years, we have managed our business in accordance with financial disciplines that are similar to

also strengthened our management and professionalism of our staff and the quality of our products and service.

I believe that successful businesses can only remain successful. and continue to meet their customers' needs in a changing world, by continuing to renew their own structure and capabilities. I like to think that, in moving on from mutuality, we are firmly in the tradition of our founder Thomas Bignold, who created Norwich Union almost 200 years ago in order to provide customers with better insurance protection.

☐ Allan Bridgewater is Group Chief Executive of Norwich Union and a former chairman of the Association of British Insurers.

double card

Orange, the mobile telephone company, will to-day announce the launch of its own credit card in cooperation with NatWest. The card will offer interestfree credit for up to 56 days, a first year APR of 17.2 per cent and no annual fee during the initial 12

The card will also double as a global telephone card with the cost of the calls being charged to the credit card account. It will be offered to Orange telephone customers over the next few weeks.

Caring sale

Ashbourne, the nursing homes group, has sold for £4 million its 90-bed caring home in Aberdeen to the British Aerospace pension fund. Ashbourne, which is divesting itself of some property assets, will continue to rent, and run, the home from the new owners.

Phone plan

Atlantic Telecom is raising £23.2 million through a placing and open offer to expand its radio-based digital telephone network in greater Glasgow. The service will run in competition to BT and the cable companies. Close Brothers is placing 20.1 million shares on a 2-for-15 basis at 25p each. The shares closed 4p easier at 26p yesterday.

Orange deals O'Reilly group's Ir£442m NZ bid given go-ahead

IN DUBLIN AND RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

SHAREHOLDERS of Independent Newspapers, Ireland's largest media group. yesterday formally approved the company's offer to acquire Wilson and Horton, Ratification of a bid for the New Zealand publishing group came at an extraordinary meeting in Dublin.

On September 16, Independent Press Communications, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Irish group, offered NZ\$10.50 a share for the Auckland-based company. valuing it at Ir£442 million. The Irish group and other companies linked to Tony O' Reilly already own 45 per cent of the New Zealand group.

The group announced last

month that it intended to offer NZ\$10.50 a share for the remaining shares in Wilson and Horton. New Zealand analysts initially dismissed the Independent Newspaper's offer as being far too low and shares in Wilson and Horton jumped to a high of N2\$10.75 on news of the bid, anticipating that a higher offer would emerge. Raymond Webb, analyst at ANZ Securities, said: There had been speculative buying from investors who were of the opinion that the bid undervalues Wilson and



Tony O'Reilly: his companies already own 45 per cent of the New Zealand publisher.

Horton, and that there was a possibility it would be raised." However, the appearance

yesterday of a report by the stockbroker. Southpac Corporation, declaring that the Independent Newspaper's offer was "fair" dampened hopes of a higher offer and Wilson and Horton's shares fell 13 cents, to NZ\$10.57 (£4.80) on the New stock exchange. Southpac Corporation said that the bid was within its

NZ\$10.20 to NZ\$11.10 a share. However, John Cairns, head of research at Cavill White Securities, said that in spite of the report. Independent would still find it difficult to take control of the company at a price of NZ\$10.50. He said: "I would think that their primary objective is to get in

THE TIMES

assessed value range of Independent Newspapers says that the acquisition of Wilson and Horton would represent a further important stage in its strategy of developing strong market positions in its core businesses of newspapers, magazines, electronic media and outdoor advertising. In the half year to June, Wilson and Horton made a excess of 50 per cent so that pre-tax profit of NZ\$28.1 milthey've actually got control of lion (£12.7 million) on revenues of NZ\$212.9 million.

Perpetual set

to decide on Refuge deal

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE fate of Refuge Assurance's proposed merger with United Friendly is likely to be decided within days. Perpetu-al, one of Refuge's largest shareholders, will announce early next week whether it is backing the deal.

Perpetual has just over 7 per cent of Refuge. Two other institutional shareholders. Britannic and Prudential, which have a 16 per cent stake tween them, are supporting Refuge has to secure accep-

tances from shareholders owning 50 per cent of its shares for the merger to go through. A majority of United Friendly shareholders have

If Perpetual backs the deal, Refuge will have acceptances from institutions holding 21 per cent of shares, almost half

TOURIST RATES

THE SUNDAY TIMES Sir Alastair Morton, the co-chairman of Eurotunnel, is stepping down from his post and heading off for a long holiday; beginning in the Arctic. It is an apt location . . . 9 Business Focus — The

Sunday Times, tomorrow

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lang likely to delay decision on airlines

THE final decision on whether the link-up of British Airways and American Airlines should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is likely to be delayed by lan Lang, President of the Board of Trade. The Office of Fair Trading this week passed its three-month study on the proposed BA deal to Mr Lang. A decision had been expected for Monday but insiders now say an announcement during the Tory party conference next week was unlikely.

BA received a boost when the European Commission yesterday signalled that it was moving to legalise the trade in take-off and landing slots. The lack of freely available slots is one of the anti-competitiveness arguments against the alliance. Slots are exchanged at twice-yearly airline meetings, but some have been traded in an unregulated grey market.

Portman in £21m MBO

PORTMAN TRAVEL, the UK's fourth-largest business travel agency. was bought yesterday by its managers in a £21.4 million buyout, backed by NatWest Ventures and others. Portman employs 370 staff and has 44 offices around the country. It is the largest independent business travel agent in a market dominated by the big multiple players, such as American Express and Hogg Robinson.

Irish benefits decline

THE number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the Irish Republic has fallen for the second successive month, according to the Central Statistics Office. The seasonally adjusted figure for September was 281,400, down from 284,300 in August, giving the Irish Republic an unemployment rate of 12.4 per cent. The reopening of several com-panies that closed for summer contributed to the reduction.

Waterman on a high

WATERMAN PARTNERSHIP, the housing consultant, said its order book had grown to the highest levels in its 43 years. Pre-tax profits doubled to £667,000 in the year to June 30, on sales up by 33 per cent, to £13.9 million. Earnings per share doubled to 2.6p. A final dividend of 0.7p, due on November 27, makes a total of 1.2p (lp). The shares rose 5p. to a 12-month high of 462 p.

Hughes rises to record

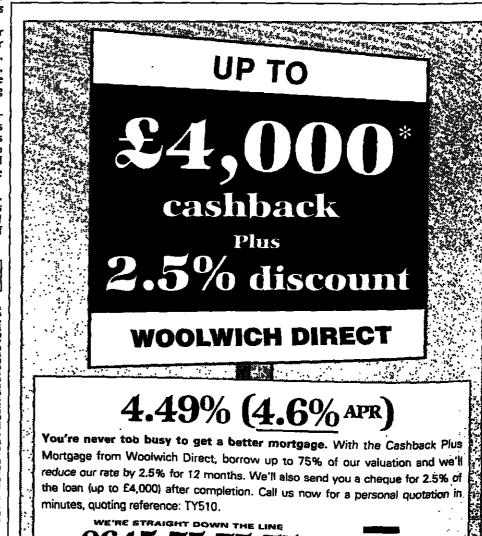
A RETURN to its traditional strategy is paying off for TJ Hughes, the discount retailer. The group, based in Liverpool lifted pre-tax profits from £62,000 to a record £361,000 in its first half, to July 31. "We have gone back to basics," said Eric Hodges, chairman. The group, with 16 department stores in the North West and the Midlands, lifted sales 28 per cent. to £28.5 million. The dividend rises 5 per cent, to 0.84p.

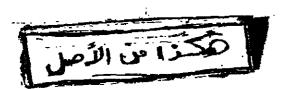
Underpaid? Unappreciated? Get away from it all next Thursday.

On Thursdays, the exciting new Appointments Section is in three parts. It includes First Executive, especially for graduates and young professionals in the early stages of their careers. There's also Management Plus, covering positions for middle management, and Premier Appointments for senior vacancies.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES





Jon Ashworth meets the man at the centre of debates that touch the nation's pockets, and sees a surprise in his elegant old desk

6 I felt like

saying 'Come

on, I am red-

blooded too,

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Monday _ Tuesday 7

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IT IS EASY to get lost in the Bank of England. The route to the Deputy Governor's office starts in a grandiose reception area, peopled by footmen in Friday pink waistcoats and top hats, and winds through a labyrinth of

passages, the connecting doors so heavy that they could be lined with gold from the vaults below. More doors, more passages. then there it is, the central chamber, and a lurking Minotaur, in the crisp-shirted form of Howard Davies.

Davies. 45, is not, in fact, so much lurking as downright ebullient. He has just been voted one of the world's 50 most desirable men by listeners of Radio 4's Woman's Hour, chosen with the likes of Eric Cantona and Lenny Henry, and is inclined to accept an invitation to the celebratory party - but not alone, mind. It would not do to discover someone has been having fun at his expense.

Davies has been running the Bank of England this week — his first long solo stint since becoming Deputy Governor just over a year ago. Eddie George, the Governor, is holidaying in India, and Davies has the run of Threadneedle Street. He appears to relish the task, entertaining a delegation

from China one morning, and making speeches in Liverpool the next. Sex appeal, of course, did for Davies's predecessor. Rupert Pennant-Rea. who fell victim to a kiss-

and-tell episode in March 1995. Bank insiders joke of "the scene of the crime" supposedly marked in chalk in a nearby room.

Davies does not think Pennant-Rea's antics did any lasting harm. "People make the odd joke, you know, but not, I have felt, in a way which suggested that it's had any impact on either the status of the institution in general, or the role of the Deputy Governor in particular," he says.

The former CBI Director-General pretends to be put out at having been thought a safe bet. "I was slightly offended when I first got the job that I wasn't asked more closely about my private life -- apparently on the assumption that I couldn't possibly be thought of doing that sort of thing," he recalls. "I felt like saying, 'Come on, I am red-blooded too, you know'."

Frivolity aside, Davies is charged with the all too serious task of running one of Britain's key institutions. As Deputy Governor, he plays chief executive to Eddie George's chairman, maintaining day-to-day control over an organisation that employs 3,700 people — 2.500 of them in the London headquarters - and which spans printing works, markets and financial supervision. As chairman of the Bank's management committee, Davies is responsible for staffing, property issues, pay negotiations, and so on. He also takes the lead in banking supervision — an issue to the fore since the fall of Barings.

Constantly shuffling personnel is one of the more tiresome aspects of the job. "It's like one of those plastic games where you keep on trying to make the pattern, and never quite achieve it," Davies says. "That is quite wearing, but I think every chief executive would recognise that — the conflicting demands of different areas."

A short passage links the rooms of Governor and Deputy Governor, and I am allowed a quick look at Eddie George's parlour - cavernous, steeped in old world charm and opening on to a garden, where

The splendour belies a practical approach to running the nation's finances. The Bank has funny habits - rooms are called parlours, concierges are footmen but discussions are the same as in any business. Davies says: "The style of the place is different, in terms of its outward manifestations. It's men in pink coats, and marble halls, and that sort of thing, and that's what people expect, and why disappoint them - as long as it doesn't mean your internal working practices become excessively formal.

"Fortunately, for the most part, I don't

think that's the case. It might be slightly odd that when you come to a meeting to discuss monetary policy there is a man with a pink coat who's making sure that every body's there, and tea and coffee come in silver things, but once that's done, you have as lively an argument about inter-

est rates, and with people telling each other what they think of them. and their views, in a way that you would anywhere else. It doesn't, in my view, carry over into a great formality of interpersonal relationships within the Bank."

The Deputy Governor's week varies greatly, depending on the stage in the Bank's monthly cycle. The ten days leading up to a monthly monetary meeting start with the review committee, chaired by Davies, which considers issues such as housing demand, retail sales and money supply. The meeting lasts half a day, and involves about 40 people. It ends with a debate on whether interest rates should move - which suddenly brings

Davies makes it sound easy. "One of the nice things about this process is that, although the arguments are complicated, the ultimate decision's quite simple." he says. "There are only three things you can do with interest rates, really - put 'em up. put 'em down, or keep them the same.' The consensus is outlined in a draft letter, dispatched to the Treasury for further



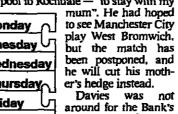
Howard Davies. Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, controls an organisation employing 3,700 and "promoting British financial institutions overseas"

debate. Finally, Governor and Deputy Governor and the Chancellor and Treasurv officials decide a course of action.

Davies spends much of his time on financial regulation, and on articulating the Bank's messages to the outside world. The debate about European monetary union (EMU) is to the fore. "I do quite a lot of speaking, particularly at the moment focused on EMU, not trying to make the decision, but trying to explain to people what is going on in other countries, and how the transition works," Davies says.

He spent last weekend at a conference Italy, and was engrossed in internal meetings for much of Monday and Tuesday. Wearing his ceremonial hat, he welcomed a delegation from Shanghai, which recently signed an accord with London, aimed at increasing co-operation between the two cities. "I think with our broad role in the City we feel that we have an interest in promoting British financial

institutions overseas," he says. The end of the week found Davies in Liverpool, addressing students about capital markets. "We do that for about ten banking supervision, and talking about monetary union to the Livernool Cotton Association. He visited the Bank's local agent - one of several outposts throughout the UK - and met trade unions. On Friday night, he took a taxi from Liverpool to Rochdale — "to stay with my



biggest test of recent years - the collapse of Barings - but has had his share of excitement. This week's manoeuvring at Eurotunnel was raised at the Bank's morning meeting, known as "Books". Officials gather at 8.45, assessing developments in foreign markets, the

exchanges, and the money and domestic

minutes," says Davies, "then we laugh at what's in the press. And then we share other running stories.

Two weeks ago, the running story was Morgan Grenfell. Davies says: "The Bank needs to watch very carefully, either individual market cases, or market moves, because of our interest in financial stability." Eurotunnel, while nothing like Barings, which threatened systemic collapse, was nevertheless watched with care. "There was a reputational issue. clearly, in terms of the London market. and it knocks on into private finance," Davies says. "There are big issues raised by Eurotunnel, but I don't think that they are to do with bank failure."

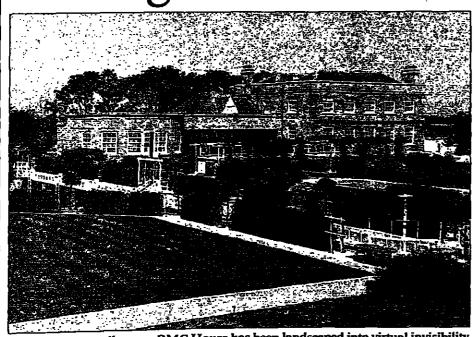
Speeches are an important part of the iob, and Davies picks his speaking engagements with care. "If there's an audience out there that actually wants a proper exposition from the Bank of England in a light, but hopefully correct. way, on what we think we're trying to do on banking supervision, or what's going on on EMU, or how we see the shape of the economy, then I quite enjoy doing that, and I quite enjoy the question and answer process," he says. "What I do not enjoy are the events where people think that they want to have the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England because that gives some status to the event."

He adds: "We want to convince people that the Bank actually does pay attention to what's going on in the real economy, as opposed to the financial economy. We're sensitive to criticism that we're too focused on financial indicators only.

The secret, Davies says, is not to be seduced by the Old Lady's grandeur. In a way, the desk is a sort of symbol of that," he says, gesturing to his desk by the window. "It is an old elegant partner's desk. Built into it is a rather sophisticated set of screens with e-mail and everything else. That, in a sense, is a metaphor for the style the Bank. I think, likes to adopt, and I'm quite comfortable with that."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Roof garden the crowning glory of new headquarters



Viewed from a mile away RMC House has been landscaped into virtual invisibility

cunning, and perhaps gall, to . succeed in commissioning the building of a distinctly Modernist corporate headquarters providing 3,500 square metres of new office accommodation, training facilities and more, on a site surrounded by listed buildings that is both in the heart of the metropolitan green belt and overlooked by one of Surrey's cherished viewpoints. St Ann's Hill. just south of the M3-M25 intersection. But this is what the RMC Group has

done with great aplomb. The group's new headquarters has been eleverly integrated into its surroundings. The new buildings are concealed within the lines of the landscape and disguised with gardens. The listed buildings have been restored and adapted with sympathy to meet the modern-day needs of a

The result, known as RMC House, has won more design and architectural awards, more landscaping prizes and general green acclaim than one

Joanna Pitman discovers why the beautifully

disguised RMC House has won a host of awards

might believe possible. The reason it has pulled in such an impressive haul of prizes is largely because when Surreyites climb up their beloved St Ann's Hill to stand at the top and sweep the horizon, they can barely tell

Viewed from a mile away, RMC House has been landscaped into virtual invisibility. Yet Edward Cullinan Architects, working closely with Derek Lovejoy Partnership, the landscape architects, have managed to come up with a scheme that both retains the historic elements and also provides new offices, conference rooms and training facilities, including 26 study bedrooms, a laborator and recreation areas for resident staff and training course delegates.

To return the whole site to its original landscaped appearance within the garden boundaries, hedged off garden areas have been planted over

the 4,500 sq ft roof of the new buildings. This must be one of the largest roof gardens in Britain. It has lawns. shrub borders, paths, pergolas (and handrails around the entire perimeter, concealed in yew hedges) and computer-controlled irrigation and

drainage systems. And if the roof garden is not enough, staff and training residents can make use of the indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, squash and tennis courts, sauna and snooker room. Given that RMC Group specialises in supplying materials to the building industry it was able to provide many of the products and services required in building its own

new headquarters. The group has an extensive range and an extensive sales reach, employing more than 27,000 internationally, in operations throughout Europe, the

sales in 1995 were £4.5 billion, derived largely from the production of ready mixed concrete, sand, gravel, quarried materials, lime, mortar, rolled asphalts and macadams and pre-cast concrete products, such as "wavewalkers", those lunar module-shaped concrete blocks fixed on beaches to

Founded in 1930 with its first ready mixed concrete plant in Bedfont. Middlesex, the firm quickly expanded through acquisition into continental Europe. Today it owns or has a controlling share in 41 subsidiary and associated companies across Europe the US and Israel. In 1979 RMC Group diversified into leisure and now owns and operates the Thorpe Park leisure complex in Surrey as

well as Leisure Sport Angling. Glamour has never been readily associated with the building materials business, but the new RMC House serves as an impressive show case for the group's products, and with it the company's glamour ratings

Forecast for London. Showers.

The New Arrivals Lounge at Heathrow. W UNITED AIRLINES

Shares jump as US jobs figures cool rate fears

THE FT-SE 100 raced away to a fresh record of 4,024.8, as worries over the possibility of inflationary growth in the US were eased by lower than expected employment figures. The figures reduce the immediate pressure on the Federal Reserve to raise interest

While the markets had been bracing themselves for an increase in US employment figures, the number of people on UN non-farm payrolls fell by 40,000 in September, the first fall since January.

After a morning marking time ahead of the release of the US figures, the FT-SE 100 recovered sharply, moving back above 4,000 within minutes of the American figures being released.

A strong opening on Wall Street, however, gave the UK markets a firmer lead. Shares leapt ahead in mid-afternoon to set a new trading peak of 4,025.1 before closing at 4,024.8, a gain of 24.8 points. With the US figures out of the way, dealers are expecting the markets to open with a bounce on Monday.

British Airways was the highest flyer among FT-SE 100 shares, lifted by reports that the EU is to legalise trading of the valuable take-off and landing slots at airports. Buying and selling of such

slots is currently done on a grey market and analysts estimate that BA's Heathrow slot could be worth £5-10 billion. BA shares jumped 33p to a new high of 594p. A Commission spokesman said regulations on airport slots were still under consideration. A profits downgrade from Kleinwort Benson, brokers, knocked Courtaulds, the chemicals group, lower. Yearend profit forecasts have been cut from £160 million to £140 million in response to the weaker demand for viscose, one of Courtaulds main product areas. The shares fell 17p to

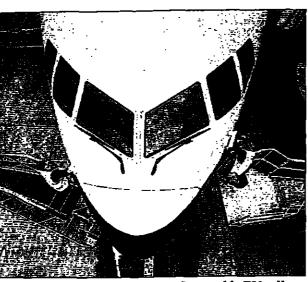
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47012p. a drop of 3 per cent. Whispers of a bid boosted HTV, the Welsh television group. Strong demand for the shares lifted its price 3212p to 38412p. Carlton Communications, tipped as a potential bidder for HTV, edged ahead by 3p to 481p.

Bass, the brewer and hotel group, looked flat as selling on the futures market and a stock shares to a low of 755p during the day. The price recovered some ground to end at 773p,



BA's shares took off by 33p on a favourable EU ruling

down 412p. Attention on the oil sector was initially fuelled by an analyst's report on the hefty costs of decommissioning oil and gas platforms in the North Sea. Shares in BP slipped to a low of 67012p but recovered to close at 68712p, up 1012p. Shell rose 712p to 999p. Enterprise Oil also recovered at 58312p, up 9p.
A sharp fall in half-year profits and a warning of more

Imperial Tobacco also lost some of its appeal after recent buying and slipped back lp to 4lop. Hanson, its former parent. inched up ¹4p to 90¹2p. A E4.06 million bid for New

ing

Guernsey Securities at 203p a share sent its price rocketing ahead. The price leapt from 200p to $337^{1}2p$ on the news. The bidders are former Hobson directors Andrew Regan and David Lyons, and their

Millwall, the football club, yesterday placed 17.14 million new shares at 3.0375p to raise £520,000 to fund the club's expansion. Its shares closed unchanged at 312p. Manchester United was also unmoved at 45112p after splashing out £2.14 million for more car park land close to Old Trafford Stadium.

problems to come in the second half of the year knocked shares at Forward Technology, the electronics group. After revealing a profits plunge from £812,000 to £109,000 the shares slid ISp lower to 44p.

British Gas remains under a cloud after taking its row with the regulator to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Gas shares ended 5'2p lower at 187'2p.

offer has received acceptances from 80 per cent of New Guernsey shareholders. Rolls-Royce, the aero-en-

gine group, continued to power ahead on hopes of landing a \$2bn order from the US airforce. The shares moved up 9p to 266p.

Drug companies looked perky once again, helped as SmithKline Beecham jumped 1912p to 82112p. Zeneca, perennially tipped as a bid target.

MOVERS	OF IDE MEEK
British Airways 594%p Benk of Scotland 276p Imperial Tobacco 416p Inspirations 101%p Virtuality 131p EMI £12.79 ICI 856p Rolls-Royce 296p Enterprise Oil 583%p	week's stange + 61 ½ p

Bid interest also added in terest to Archer, the insurance group, where shares rose 21 to 8212p. The Lloyds agend confirmed it has received a bi-approach from US grou Chartwell Re Corporation. The Bank of Scotland cor tinued to reap the benefit recent results as shares adde a further 912p to 276p. Th Royal Bank of Scotland als moved up with a gain of 812 to 5291 2p. EMI, the music grou which recently demerged from Thorn, struck a sour note i response to a negative ana lyst's note. Its shares fell 37p t £12.79 while Thorn eased 3p RPIX 152.6 Aug (2.6%) Jan 1987=100 contrast BSkyB, the

		£
buying interest. The shares		_
topped the 600p level to close	AEA Technology 332 ¹ 2	+
at 60612p, a rise of 12p.	Airtech 7212	-
BTG, the business support	Amer Opps U Ln 95	
group, was in demand once	Provider Mond	+
again, prompting a 21212p	Cruden Bay 85	
share rise to £25.1212p.	Deitron Electrn (150) 16812	_
Inspirations, the holiday	Dies wentings	+
group, rallied after Thurs-	Eurasia Mining 315	_
	GT Chile Growth 250315 -	•
day's profits warning. The		
shares recovered to close at	71-11-21-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11-11	_
10112p, a gain of 15p on the		_
day.	Interoute Tele 1741, Mears Group 114	
Airtech dipped 3p to 7212p	Oriental Restricts 19712	
on its second day's trading on	Personal Number 96'2	_
AIM while Oriental Restau-	Polydoc . 67':	_
rant Group, which also float-	Shalibane 137's	
ed on Thursday, was snapped		+

er to 19712p.	PATRICIA CONTRACTOR AND	71.41.
Itronik Comtek, the elec-	HIGHTS	SU
ics group, moved up 30p		
34p while hopes for new lects and institutional buy-	BICC n/p (270)	16'
helped Ramco Energy,	Davis Fin ULS n/p	47
	FII Group n/p (105)	2
oil company, to jump 30p	Grampian n/p (125)	3
'Op	1	

☐ GILT-EDGED: After a quiet morning and some profit-taking ahead of the US employment figures release the gilts market also took off in afternoon trading. Strong buying support lifted the December series of the long gilt to close at EllO2632, a rise of 2932 on the day on volume of In shorts Treasury 8 per

sending the share 9p

	cent 2000 ended up 1132 a
	£1041932 while in longs Trea
	sury 8 per cent 2015 rose £123:
	to £102 ²² 32.
ł	□ NEW YORK: On Wal
ı	Street the Dow Jones industri
	al average surged more than
	50 points in early trading or
	the news that the number o
	jobs in the US economy
ı	shrank. By midday the aver
	age was 33.02 points ahead at

FTSE 250

Three Month Sterling Previous open Interest: 43049

	MANORMADICES
	New York (midday): Dow Jones
	Tokyo: Nikket Average
	Hong Kong: Hang Seng
	Amsterdam: EOE Index
	Sydney: A0 2315.5 (+0.0) Frankfurt:
	DAX
	Singapore: Smalls2148.86 (-1.90) Brussels:
n-	General 9902.17 (-117.38) Paris:
p	Zurich: . 215269 (+16.60)
d D	SKA Gen
יצי	London:
	FT 30 2857.8 (+4.0) FT 100 4024.8 (+24.8)
1	FTSE Mid 250
of	FTSE 350 2002.1 (+10.3) FTSE Eurotrack 100 1754.02 (+5.01)
d	FTSE Eurotrack 100 1754.02 (+5.01)
te	FT All-Share 1975.27 (+9.52)
0	FT Non Financials 2074.75 (+9.39)
p	FT Fixed Interest 114.81 (+0.30) FT Govi Secs 94.92 (+0.05)
	Bargains
р	SEAQ Volume
m	USM (Datastrm)
n	German Mark 2.3914 (-0.0054)
a-	Exchange index 87.1 (-0.2) Bank of England official close (4pm)
o	Bank of England official close (4pm)
oi	£:ECU
	E:SDR 1,0865 RPI 153.1 Aug (2.1%) Jan 1987=100

MAJOR INDICES

satellite broadcaster, touched RECENT ISSUES a new high helped by renewed

1 Distillet mone		_
Cruden Bay	85	
Deitron Electrn (150	0) 1685	
Elec Retail Sys	1971,	+ 1
Eurasia Mining	315	
GT Chile Growth	2603%	+ 34%
Grosvenor Land	154	
Hartstone 8% Cum	1204	
Imperial Tobacco	416	- l
Interoute Tele	1741	
Mears Group	114	
Oriental Restricts	19712	+ 9
Personal Number	9642	- 7
Polydoc .	67':	- 3
Shalibane	13712	
Ultra Electronics	290's	+ 4
Weeks Group	74	
1 .		

The state of the s		<u>= :</u>	
BICC n/p (270)	16':	~	2
Davis Fin ULS n/p	47	+	512
FII Group n/p (105)	2	~	15
Grampian n/p (125)	3	-	
MAJOR CH	ING	ES.	

RISES:	
Filtronic Com	234p (+30p)
BLP Group	135p (+10p)
Staveley	
Br Airways	
Calor Gp	
French Conn	
Bank Scotland	
Rolls-Royce	
Flextech	
Prudential	
BAA	
Scot TV	
Wolseley	501′4p (+10p)
FALLS:	
	44m (40m)
Forward Tech	
Lamont	
Scotia	
Courtaulds	470'₂p (-17p)

..... 570p (-11p)

Natts Blake

TEMPUS

Meaningless millennium

MILLENARIAN anxiety is taking hold of the stock market. Round numbers have a curious effect on people. Just as the approaching calendar millernium has increased public appetite for stories about incurable diseases and alien invasions, some investors are convinced that the FT-SE 100 at 4,000 marks

the end of a cycle.

It does not, of course, but it might come to pass if enough investors believe it to be true. A more rational concern is expressed by those who believe that shares are expensive. They point to falling dividend yields and higher yield ratios to suggest we are due for a correction. There is more substance here, but, in the case of London, the figures argue for a pause in upward momentum, not a decline.

Shares have risen sharply over the past year, but, at the same time, dividend growth

Share index down from 3.83 per cent to 3.76 per cent. In fact, the income return on the London market has barely moved since January and the long-gilt yield is about twice that of shares, hardly a reason to panic.

Wall Street, however, should worry. Over the past year, the yield on the S&P 500 index has slumped from 2.41 per cent to 2.13 per cent and the ratio to the long bond is now over three times. Logically, American funds should shift some money to London, but British investors would be foolish to rely on that. One concern is that the market has been boosted by a super-yield from share buy-backs and special dividends. With utility payouts coming to an end, the market may drift, but those who missed out on the recent surge in equities will feel the pressure to invest.

AIM

BILLED as a high-risk. high-reward exchange, the Alternative Investment Market has failed to deliver the kind of return investors would expect from holding some of the riskiest stocks. Since the new issue bon-

anza in June, the junior exchange has lost over il per cent of its value, and is now on course to crash below the 1.000 mark set when the index started in December.

This is not a crash, in the conventional sense, but the result of the market's biggest defect: illiquidity. Most AIM shares are tightly held, giving a handful of investors disproportionate leverage over the share price. Like-wise with the AIM index itself; it is heavily weighted towards stocks such as Trocadero and Pan Andean Resources. After recent setevidence that, so far, investors would be better putting their money in the smaller stocks of the main market. The more rigorous requirements of a full listing would

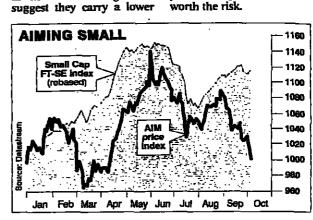
market down with it. More interesting is the

backs, their combined value

has fallen by £45.1 million in

the past month, taking the

risk than AIM stocks, but their outperformance indicates the rewards are also superior. With the AIM index in freefall and capital gains tax relief now available on just a handful of its equities, the Stock Exchange will be having a hard task persuading investors that a punt in the junior market is worth the risk.



Reed Elsevier

THERE is little doubt that Reed Elsevier and Bloomberg Business News. the financial information company that is nipping at the heels of Reuters, are smiling at each other. Bloomberg signed an agreement in April to supply its market news to Reed's Lexis-Nexis on-line service and the two companies said that they would explore ways of doing more business with each other. The question is whether this will lead to an outright merger.

The idea of bringing Reed and Bloomberg together is not far-fetched. Reed has said that it would like to spend several billion dollars expanding its American business-tobusiness publishing empire. The company is weak in the area of real-time financial information, a product with a growing market among brokers, bankers and traders who are prepared to pay high has made a fortune for

Before Reed gets serious about making a takeover pitch, it needs to consider whether Bloomberg would thrive without Michael Bloomberg, its founder and controlling shareholder and the driving force in the business. A cult of personality has developed around Mr Bloomberg, and employees seem to thrive on his energy. Reed lacks the same evangelical culture. Another risk is the reaction of shareholders to an attempt by Reed to take on Reuters at its own game. Bloomberg has made a dent in the side of Reuters. but that achievement took the ambitious American com-

Kepit

SOME of the documents slipping onto the doormats of the 70,000 private investors in Kleinwort European Privatiopaque even by the stan-

pany more than a decade.

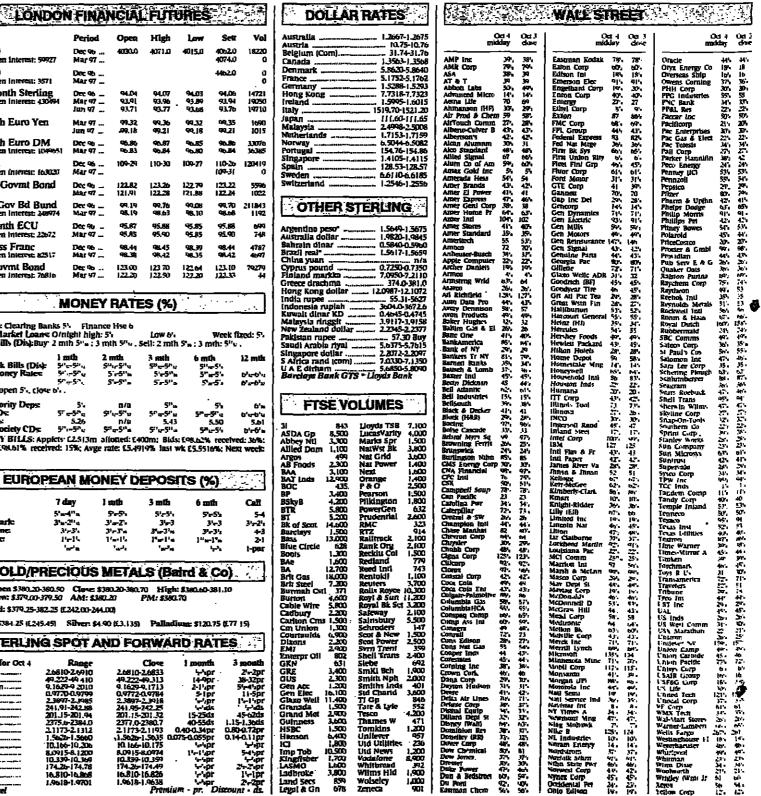
Touche Remnant has now accepted almost inevitable defeat, and investors are left with the choices placed before them by the independent board of directors in response to TR's offer.

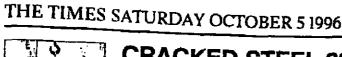
They have another three weeks to make up their minds between the three options on offer. These are to take their cash out — and TR plans to provide an entry into its own fund for those who do - or to continue through Son of Kepit, a unit trust still skewed towards European privatisation, a sector that Kleinwort is convinced will come right in the end. The third option is to switch into a safe-as-houses M&G unit trust of mixed European stocks, Recent events at Morgan Grenfell suggest that many investors will take the cash route; some may throw their luck in with TR, but most will probably steer clear of investment trusts from now on.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES Intermediate (Nov) 24.1 Intermediate (Dec) 24.2 PRODUCTS \$/MT) POTATO (E/A Alid I I PASPA (*100): A SPA (

Jan 1518-1513 Jul 1378-1308	Bid Offer	Nov unq 35.0	1	Jun 47	99.21 90	16 40.21
Mar 1402-1309 Nov 1388-1370 May 1384-1382 Volume 3834	Premium Unid 211 (n/c) 214 (n/c) Gasoil EEC 249 (+2) 251 (+2)	Mar 73.0 Apr 72.0 72.5	Three Mth Euro DM	Dec % 95.85 Mar 97 95.83	90.87 9b.	
WHITE SUGAR (FOB)	3.5 Fuel Oil	Volume: 25 RUBBER (No J RSS CH p/M)	Previous open interest: (04905) Long Gilt	Dec 96 109-29	110-30 109-	-77 110-26
Resters Aug 322.0-21.5 Spot 331.0 Oct 315.0-14.1	IPE FUTURES (GNI LM)	Nov	Previous open interest: 163030	Mar 97 _		(04-3)
Dec	GAS OIL Oct 245.75-46.00 Jan 217.75 SLR	B1FFEX (GN: 1ad \$10/pt)	Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec % _ 121.82 Mar 97 _ 121.91	23.26 12 <u>2</u> 22.28 121.	
May 320,7-19.7 Volume: 365	Nov 235.50-35.75 Feb 208.00 SLR Dec 226.75-27.00 Vol: 22999	High Low Close Oct 96 1147 1135 1144	German Gov Bd Bund Previous open Interest: 248974	Dec 96 99.19 Mar 97 98.19	99,76 99, 98,63 98,	.08 94,70 .10 98,68
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION	BRENT (6.00pm)	Nov 95 1214 1210 1215 Dec 96 1220 1210 1212	Three month ECU	Dec % _ 45,87	95.88 95.	.85 95.88
Average latitock prices at representative	Nov 23.80 BID Feb 21.85 BID Dec 23.27-23.29 Mar 21.25 BID	Jan 97 1245 1240 1239 Vol: 340 lots Open Interest: 4120	Previous open Interest: 22672 Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 97 95.85 Dec 95 98.44	95.90 95. 98.45 98.	
markets on October 3 (p/kg/w) Pig Sheep Cattle	Jan 22.62 BID Vol. 27808	fndex 1023 -b	Previous open interest: 82517	MAI 97 98.38	98.42 98.	
GB: 104.22 115.69 96.76 (+/-)		METAL EXCHANGE Rudos Wolff	Italian Govmt Bond Previous open Interest 76816	Dec % 123.00 Mar 97 122.20	123 70 125. 122.50 122.	
Eng/Wales: 104.20	Copper Gde A (\$/tonne) Casis: 1921.0-1 Lead (\$/tonne)	761.50 764.50-765.50 170475				
Scotland: 107.46 113.36 99.97	Zinc Spec Hi Gde (\$/tonne) 997,994	041E D1004000 004F		MONEY RATE	S (%)	
(*/	Aluminium Hi Gde (\$/ronne) 1322.5- Nickel (\$/tonne) 7025.0-7	1323.0 1355 5-1356.0 1382625 0190.0 7130 0-7135.0 54870			<u> </u>	
			Base Rates: Clearing Banks ! Discount Market Loans: O/r	night hìgh: 5'i	Low 6's	Week fix
	LIFFE OPTIONS		Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy 2 m			
Calls Pus	Calls Pats) Calls Puts	Prime Bank Bills (Dis): 5"	ath 2 mth '문량'대 원'대왕'대	50-50	6 m(k) 5"5"
Series Oct Jan Apr Oct Jan Apr	Series Oct Jan Apr Oct Jan Apr	Series Dec Apr Jul Dec Apr Jul	Interbank: 5"	":-5"u 5":5"u ":-5": 5":5"»	5'r5"n 5r5"a	5"m5" (5"m5" (
Alid Dorn 420 26 34 40 0'. 11'. 16'. (*445) 460 1'. 11 20'- 16 33'. 38	BAA 460 40 46 55'; 0 5 8'; (*49'4) 500 6'; 30 30'; 7'; 18'; 24	Abby Nat. 600 31': 4n 51 15 32' 36', 1609-1 650 10'- 23 31 45 61' 65',	Overnight: open 5'+, close 6'+.			
ASDA 100 7 10 12 01 25 35 (100) 1 10 1 45 65 45 7 8	Thames W., 550 18 295 43 1 17 255; (5564) 600 05 07 07 07 07 05 355.	Amstrad 140 13" = - 75	Local Authority Deps Sterling CDs: 57	5'- n/a ' ლ5"a 5''-5"v	5"a 5"a=5"u	5ክ ምሎም።
Bouts, 600 28*. 40 53 05 11*, 17 (*625*g) 650 15 13*; 27 34 36*; 42	(304.) 196. 67 4 207 35. 40. 53.	Barclays = 950 40 70 90 21 44 509, (*965); (000 24 44) 56 48 7] 77	Dellar CDs:	5.26 n/a "1=5"e 5"e-5"s	5.43 5''e-5''a	5.50 5*1-5%
Br Alfways . 550 42' 51' 65': 0' 10 15 ("590') 600 9 22 36 14': 29': 36	Series Nov FebMay Nov FebMay	Nati Per 400 14 27 14 21 1400.) 450 15 91 52 555	TREASURY BILLS: Applets	: C25(3m affored: £4	OOm; Blds: E98.	LL2% received
8P	BTR 260 145 215, 242 3 6 11 (*270) 280 45, 105, 14 125, 155, 21	Series Oct Jan Apr Oct Jan Apr	Last week: £98.61% received: £200m.	15%; Avge rate: £5.49	19% last wk 69	1.5516%; Next
Br Steel 180 10 14 16 t 6 8'. ("189'd 200 0 4'. 9 Li 17', 19'.	Br Acro 1100 50". 77", 94"; 18 32 44"; 1 1150 25". 50 67 41"; 55", 67	Glaze W 1000 27. h3 80' 6 25', 45'.	EUDODEA			
C 8 W 420 197 317 43 2 117 177 P437 4 460 1 117 237 23 327 387	Bt Teigra 360 11': 18 23'- 7': 16': 30 C361': 390 2 6': 12 29 36': 39	(*1022.) 1050 4/1 37 54 31', 50 70 HSBC 1200 47 90 110 4 29 53'; (*1242.6 1250 17 61'- 81', 21', 50- 76',	EUROPEA	IN MONEY D	EPOSITS	(%)
CU 600 127 337 437 5 177 15 [16061] 650 0 12 217 437 48 66	Cadbury 500 20 35; 40; 0; 1; 27 (507) 550 3; 13; 18; 43; 47 57	Reuter 750 23 52°; 65 4 22 37°;	Currency 7 c	day lauth	3 mth	6 soft
1C1	Guinness 420 34 43': 49', 2 6 12', 1454) 460 8': 19', 26 17' 23 31';	(*767*) 800 2*; 28 43 33*, 49 63*; Royal 6 5un 3*4 25 31; 39 1*, 10*; 21		4"a 9=51 12"a 3'=2"	5'25'4	5°r5's
Land Sec 700 12 27, 39, 37, 17, 22 (708), 750 0 9 17 41, 50, 52,	GEC 390 11', 20', 28 9', 17 20 ("3'0'4) 420 2 9 15 30 35', 37	(*417) 43(1'- 13 (9 22 30'; 41'; Series Der FebMay Der FebMay	French Franc 3	Yr3's 3'r5's	31=3 31=31=	3'+3 3'+3'z
M & \$ 500 12 25 35°: 3': 13', 18 (*508) 550 0 6 14 42 46 48'.	Hanson 119 14': 16'. — 0'. 3 — 17132) 136 4 6'. — 6'. H0 —	Blue Circ _ 500 29: 31 37: 9 12: 20	!	دا دها الحوال واسين يواسي	}**** *** ******	}"⊯]‰ Ç⊾
Nat West 700 114 384 47 95 25 43 (*703 750 0 164 254 47 55 74 536-way pic 330 18 264 24 05 87 134	LASMO 220 9 151, 20 7 81, 115 (*2215) 240 2 7 11 20 21 23	[*400*.] 420 8: 16: 22: 24: 28: 35: Series Od FebMay Od FebMay		<u> </u>		
Safeway pic 330 18 35/1 34 07/187, 137/ (*3664) 360 15 11 19/147 24 29 Sainshary 360 7 16/247 4 13 17 (*362) 390 0 5/1 11/128 33 35/1	LucasVarity 240 15°: 23 28 6°: 9°: 13°: (2249) 260 6 13 18°: 16 29 23°:	Kingfishr., 400 49, 70 79 05 11 195) 	HOUS METAL		
	Pilkingur 180 10's 15's 20 3's 7 9 1'180's) 200 2 7 11 10 18's 20's 1 Prodessial 400 20's 34 40 8's 10 20	Cold 650 4. 35', 48 11', 29 40	Bullion: Open \$380,20-380.50 Low: \$379,00-379.50	Clove: \$380.20-380.7 AM: \$380.20	70 High: \$380 PM: \$380.70	01.188-09.0
Shell	(*467.) 500 4', 16 21'; 54 39 48'; Rediand 420 41 48 55 3'; 8'; 14'.	Uniferent 1990 31 49 77 49 21 339 (1975) 1400 5. 22, 46 29, 49, 579	Krugerrand: \$379.25-382.25 (•
(*819)	(*458*4) 460 11 24 10*, 17* 24*, 12*, R-Royce 340 27*, 32*, 36 1', 5 9	Series DecMar Jun DecMar Jun Br Gas 180 9 12 15 5: B 134	Matinum: \$384.25 (£245.45)	Silver: \$4.90 (£3.135)	Palladium:	\$120.75 (£77)
C309's 330 0'. — — 20'; ~ — Trafalgar — 50 1 — — 0'. ~ — C50	(*250) 250 12', 19', 25', 7 12 16', Terson 300 19 28 33 3 8 14	(*187*) 200 iv 4v 7 20v 2jv 26v Disons 500 SV 6tv 72 6v t3 18	STERLING S	POT AND FO	RWARD	RATES
Zenera 1800 pb 123 149': 6 42 61'; (*1655) 1700 15 70 95': 51 88 108';	(313) 130 4'. 12 18 18' 2) 29'. Williams 360 12' 7	(*526), 550 19 32; 43 25; 35; 30 EMI Group (250 66), 92 (17), 23; 41; 51;	Miki Rates for Oct 4	Range	Close 1 m	nonth 3
Series Nov Jan Apr Nov Jan Apr	13634	[*1277'4] 1300 41 65 90 46' 65 74 Tarmac 90 9 12 12', 3 3 6	Amsterdam 2681	0-24910 26810- 2-49410 49.222-	2.6833	ት\pr (4-9pr - 3
BAT Ind 420 24', 31', 3P, 10 to 28 (*429) 460 8 t4 22 34', 36 52',	900 990 4000 4050 4100 4150	(CP5) 100 4 7 7', 8 8 11 Hillischen_ 160 20 22'; 24 1', 3 6';	Copenhagen 9.162	9-9-2010 9.1629 0-0.9799 0.9772-	9.1713 2	(4-9pr - 3 2-1'spr - 5' 5-1pr
Vodatone 220 14': 17 24 4': 8 11 ("228'-4 240 4': 8 14': 14': 19 21':	Calls	1979:1 190 6 10 12 9 () 164 Linutes 160 154 184 21 2 5 64	Frankfurt	7-2.3985 2.3897- 1-242.88 241.95-	23918	₩pr (*) Weds
Series Nov. Feb.May Nov. Feb.May Grad Met., 460 25', 34 415 5', 17', 20'.	Oct 142': 94 52 22 9: Nov 164 122': 85 54 30', 5	[*174] 180 5 81; 11; 11 15 164; Sears	Madrid 201.J	5-201.94 201.15- a-2384.0 2377,0-	201.32 15 2390.7 40	5-25ds 4: 3-55ds 1.15-
(*477's) 500 b 14 22', 26 39', 42'.	Dec 194 153 1(7) 65 597, 397, Jan. 206 170 158 106 82 597,	1992's 100 1': 9 Thom EMI 1600 74's 26'	Montreal	3-2 (3)2 2 (1)73:	2.1193 0.40-0 1.5635 0.075-0.0	1.34pr 0.804
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(203) 2 220 3 7: 10 17: 19: 24:	Oct 3 7 16 57 74 (28 No. 157 24 57), 58 88 (29)	(*2789) 250 (2)6 24 (17) (5), (6), (6), (10), (6), (7), (7), (7), (7), (7), (7), (7), (7	Stockholm	9-10-369 10-339- b-174-78 174-26-	(0.399 .	V-pr
October 4, 1996 Tot: 48035 Call: 27650 Pat: 2,285 PTSE Call: 17422 Pat: 7368	Dec 32 43 59 78 104°; 136°. Jan 46 58°; 76 95°. 122 152	(*391) 430 6 (3), (0), 31 42 45 Scot Per 244 28 33, - 21, 7 -	Vienna 16.830	0-16.868 16.810- 9-1.9701 1.9618-	6.826	'yor 'yer
*Underlying security price.	Jun 110 - 145 - 194', -	P3164 323 9 164 — 13 144 —	Source Ertel	4	Premium - 1	pr. Discoun
	·".		• • • • •			







OBER 5 1996

CRACKED STEEL 32

Bumpy road ahead for British Steel

WEEKEND MONEY!

FREE WARRANTS 33

Can they really be such a bargain?



Policyholders must wait for NU to spring into action

orwich Union policyholders may have to wait up to seven months to discover exactly how many free shares will be allocated when the society floats on the stock market.

The three million qualifying policyholders will be sent more information about NU's proposed demutualisation in the spring, after which they will be asked to vote on the flotation plans at an extraordinary general meeting on a date yet to be arranged.

Soon afterwards they will be told more about the size of their windfall payout, although the price of the shares they will acquire will depend on market conditions at the time.

Though the average payout is expected to be around £500, investors who have been with the mutual for many years can expect more generous returns than those who, for example, took out a policy with methods of reimbursing policyholders for their loss of membership rights," NU said. "There is a set allocation for all qualifying members, plus an extra allocation for people who have been with the society for a long time. There is no maximum payout."
An estimated 100,000-plus people have

called the NU helpline since it opened on Wednesday morning, Many of these are long-standing NU customers who are concerned that "carpetbaggers", who joined the society days before it an-nounced flotation plans, may be more handsomely rewarded than themselves.

NU acted swiftly to freeze member-ship, and any policies taken out after midnight on October I will not qualify for shares. Around 15,000 people whose pensions, endowments, term assurance or other savings plans mature before the EGM, or who die before then, will be paid an average 3 per cent cash bonus, which will be added to their policy's value. This would add an extra £400 to a policy worth £12,000.

Richard Harvey, group finance director, said NU decided to distribute free shares. rather than cash to avoid falling foul of Inland Revenue regu-

"We considered pay-

ing cash, but decided

on shares because the Revenue might regard cash as a part payout during the life of the policy, and this carries penalties."

Qualifying members are those who have one or more of the following policies in force on October 2 and at the time of the EGM: life insurance, including non-

profit: individual pension; annuity and company pension schemes. However, there will be no payouts for people who buy second-hand endowment policies. About two million of NU's customers

will not qualify as members. These include motor, household and other general insurance policyholders; health or medical insurance policyholders: PHI and income protection or unit trusts and personal equity plans.

NU will not give policyholders on plan guarantees to charges once it becomes a quoted company. This is in stark contrast to the management of Clerical Medical, which pledged not to increase charges for five

to make such statements. There is no expectation at NU that policies with variable charges will see the charges

The mutual is being restructured and the life fund, which currently owns NU and its subsidiaries, will be separated off from the general insurance business. Allan Bridgewater, NU's chief executive, says this means the life fund will no longer be subject to the vagaries of the insurance market. In compensation for

losing any profits from general insurance in the future, an unspecified amount of money is being paid back into the life But should investors accept the compensation payments and vote for the

flotation, or would they be better off

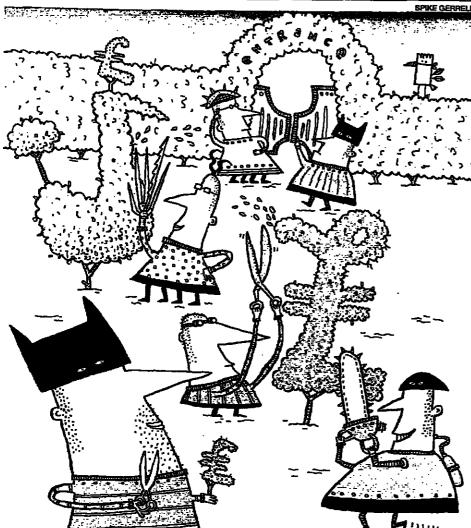
voting for NU to remain a mutual?

intention to float, it would be very vulnerable if it was forced to remain a mutual, and would most likely become a takeover target. Even if it does float, there are plenty of players in the market. including pensions giants like the Pru-dential, which could afford to buy it. Historically, it has been difficult for

policyholders to block such proposals. One actuary believes that current policyholders will not be greatly affected by demutualisation but believes that the NU will, in future, be trying to meet the demands of shareholders and may offer products which are less competitive. He said: "NU rates and charges have

been competitive in the past. Recent surveys have shown mutuals often offer better terms than publicly owned companies."

MARIANNE CURPHEY



Larger hedge funds find it harder to cut and run, but the current climate may be tempting

Market mania will not last

THE FT-SE 100 index broke the psychologi-cally important 4,000 level on Wednesday this week on the back of record highs on Wall Street (Richard Thomson and Caroline Merrell write).

The US market was encouraged by leaked remarks from Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, who indicated that he had no intention of increasing interest rates because there was no danger of inflation really taking off in the American

The UK market is continuing to prosper in conditions of low interest rates and low inflation, but some analysts fear that there could be a fall in the price of shares in the UK market, while some believe that there will be a period of flatness. The movement of the market in the US will be crucial for the UK. Last week the Dow Jones industrial average pushed above 5,900, a rise of 150.9

per cent in the last six years without a 10 per cent fall. The previous record was held by the bull market that ended in 1987 after a rise of 150.6 per cent.

Most analysts expect the Dow to climb even higher. "It's plain sailing through the election in November," says David Schulman, Salomon Brothers' chief equity strategist. He is predicting 6,200 on the Dow in the foreseeable future, even though he believes shares are already somewhat overpriced.

But that is the fundamental worry nagging at the market. On most normal measures, US stocks are too high and should be close to a setback. Yet the kind of significant correction that would bring the market back to a safe level

never seems to happen.

current financial climate. For the uninitiated, hedge funds are a huge pool of institutional and private capital. They differ from unit and investment trusts in a fundamental way. These more conventional investment vehicles are typically limited to a certain market smaller companies, emerging markets. More importantly, they work on the assumption

is a risky business The long and short of it is that the days of

bombers: canny fund for the fault lines in world financial markets, slipping multimillion-pound bets into place before anyone knew what was happening.

With George Soros as their squadron leader, the leading hedge fund gurus were capable of making a £1 billion profit for their investors on an exceptional day. Their pay packets continue to reflect this. Last week Spencer Nicholas Roditti, a British adviser to Soros, was reported to earn £50 million a year.

hey were the City

equivalent of Stealth

But the days of easy money are over. The biggest hedge funds control so much money coming; more B52 than Stealth bomber. The private investor is unlikely to weep. The large sums required to play - often hundreds of thousands of pounds, even millions — make the likes of Soros's Quantum Fund an improbable choice. The huge volatility is another

deterrent. But the principle on which hedge funds are based can give food for thought in the

that the value of the shares they buy will rise. In City parlance, they are "long-only". But betting on a rise is only one way of taking a risk. Big profits can also be made predicting a fall. The practice of agreeing to sell an investment - shares, bonds, currencies — at a fixed price in the

easy money are over, says Adam Jones

Hedging your bets

future is called "selling short" (you don't actually own the thing when you agree to sell it). The idea is that the market price will drop beneath the agreed sale price, creating

In hedge funds, the risk in "going long" on stocks can be balanced by selling short. What's more, hedge fund managers can also have freedom to move the money wherever the action is. They can also borrow to create gearing.

Hedge fund strategies vary a lot. They are not all like Soros's Quantum fund, betting on macroeconomic trends and events. Because of the variety of risks involved, they are not authorised by the Securities and Investments Board. They are classed as offshore investments and are forbidden to advertise. Only authorised investment advisers - stockbrokers, independent financial advisers, etc -

can recommend them. Managers based in the UK that operate in this field include Odey Asset Manage-ment, Momentum and Global Asset Management (GAM). GAM manages £5.8 billion; its largest fund is GAM Diversity, at £450 million. In the past ar, it would have turned £100 into £116, according to Micropal, the performance ansum is \$15,000 (£9,600). There are ways of incorporating hedge fund techniques into your portfolio without going offshore, through UKauthorised unit trusts designed to take advantage of

ffered by John Govett and Mercury, the unit price of these "bear market" trusts rises when the index falls because they sell short, buying futures instead of shares. They are often a short-term option for an investor with a large portfolio who feels the market will drop. They jump in, hoping to earn

at least some money when the rest of their investments are falling, then dash back out when more optimistic.

Since the funds are designed to capitalise on short bursts of pessimism, past performance figures are somewhat mislead ing. Over the past year, both the Mercury and John Govett UK bear funds would have lost about £7 for every £100, because of the continuing bull

run, according to Micropal. It is not easy, therefore, to judge how well they perform in their natural habitat - a slump. But with the London market at record levels, more investors might be prepared to take the risk and hedge.

> Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

> > ne.

Michael Metz, an equity strategist at Oppenheimer, calls the current market level financial mania", yet not even be is willing to predict when it will stop rising.

Records are to be broken

hare prices made headlines for the right reasons this week. The FTright reasons trus week. The respective second index reached a new record. In doing so, it surged through the "psychological" 4.000 mark, if only within 48 hours. to retreat limply within 48 hours. Predictably, these events sparked indepth analysis and the traditional ritual warnings. Shares might be overvalued and retribution, in the form of a minicrash, or "correction", due shortly. That may be true, but should we really agonise over share price records? In an ideal world where markets were

perfect, where everyone knew everything there was to know and interest rates were low, the index should reach a new record almost daily. If actuaries had their way, the FT-SE 100 would rise between 1.6 and 1.8 points each working day, working tediously and relentlessly towards the annual rates of return assumed in pension fund valuations. These actuarial assumptions, which

drive fund management, project future share prices and dividend growth from the long-term real growth potential of the economy, pretending that inflation is neutral. These projections are then discounted back to the present. Rationally, round numbers such as 4,000 should mean little because most investors still gade individual shares, not indices.

The daily record should not be interrupted by such short-term trivia as interest rate adjustments, tantrums on the foreign exchanges, takeover bids, oponion polis, surprise profit reports or monthly economic statistics that are not quite what forecasters expected. Only big shocks, such as Middle East wars,



that have some lasting effect on dividend growth rates should mar the serene progress of the index.

As any investor soon learns, the real world bears no likeness to this model. Reactions are instant and based on ignorance. Vision is limited and the money cost of time relatively high. Even in a liquid market, only a tiny proportion of stock is traded each day, at prices related to a spectrum of financial assets rather than fundamental value. News that prompts one investor to buy or sell. usually provokes the same reaction in others, so prices move sharply to persuade enough to take the opposite view to balance supply and demand.

The trickiest aspect of market movements is momentum, because it often masks underlying trends. The City calls it sentiment. To the rest of us, it is a herd instinct to follow the crowd. In practice, almost all trends run too far and too fast. When momentum runs out and prices retreat towards a more rational level, the herd is just as likely to charge too far in the opposite direction. Analysts of share price charts try to predict changes in short-term trends by measuring

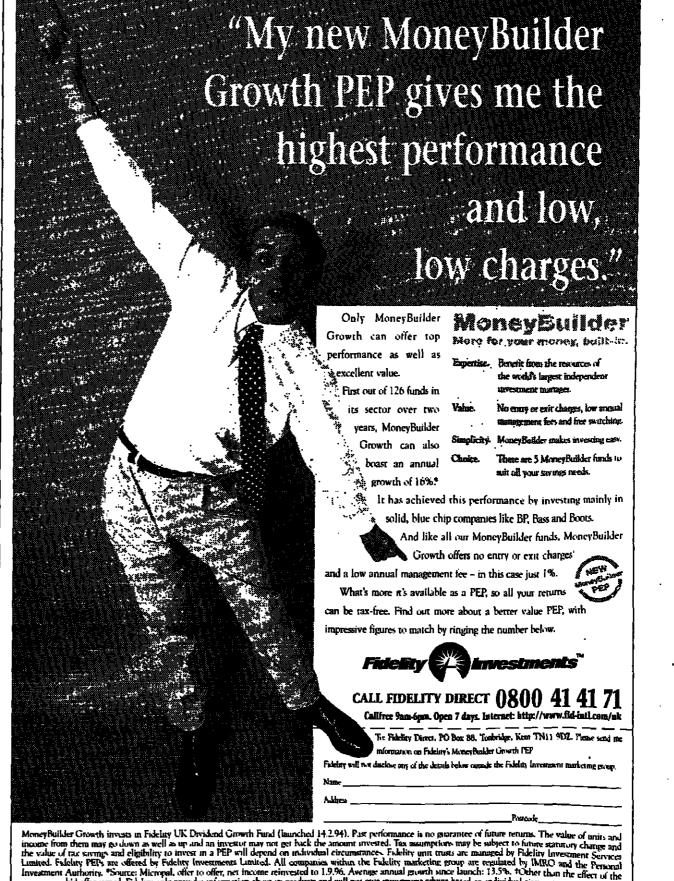
changes in momentum.

A herd often pauses when it comes to a barrier, such as a round number on the stock market index. It took professionals a while in 1991 to gather enough courage to push the FT-SE 100 up through 2,500. In practice, over the past decade, these round numbers have counted for more on the way down. Once prices are established above a landmark level, that tends to act as floor to downtrends in prices, as in 1990 or 1994.

ome chartists reckon sentiment is neutral in the UK at the moment. though shares have risen vertically since July. There are other reasons why 4,000 aught not to be too significant. Movements in top shares are unusually varied. Many, including Allied Domecq. BAT, British Gas. Guinness and National Grid are, for one reason or another, nearer the year's low than any record high, so investors do not feel they are in the middle of a heady boom. On a long-term view, too, nothing untoward is happening. Prices were reckoned a little toppy at the start of the year. To reach 4,000, however, the index needed to rise little more than 300 points or 8.5 per cent, comfortably

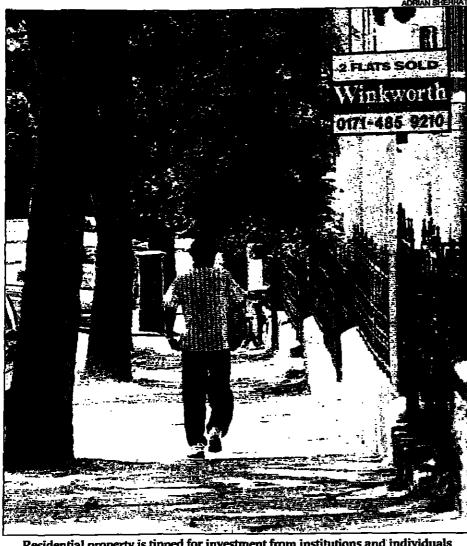
within those actuarial projections.

In this irrational world, the main worry is that shares have run too far ahead on Wall Street. The herd may be turning there. If it does, London would soon be coughing in the dust storm.



bid offer spread. Fidebry only provides information about its products and will not give investi-

Door opens for landlords



Residential property is tipped for investment from institutions and individuals

n the Nineties, houses are for nesting, not investing, or so the pundits say. However, the revival of the property market has brought a renewed interest in buying houses to let as an investment.

In recent weeks, a Buy-to-Let scheme has been launched by lenders, including the Halifax and the Woolwich and the Association of Residential Letting Agents (Aria), to encourage more people to buy homes for letting. The new scheme will get rid of surcharges and commercial rates of interest traditionally charged on mortgages

on investment properties.

The Buy-to-Let mortgages will be available from the Woolwich, the Halifax, Homeloans Direct, Mortgage Express and the Lloyds TSB lending group. Their support for the scheme shows a renewed confidence in property investment, says Liz McCallum, director of lettings for John D Wood, the estate agent. She said: "Building societies

have changed tack, and now recognise mature borrowers with a stable income, and properties let through reputale agents, as a viable source of business. So now investors will see property as an alternative form of investment, in the sort of market which everyone understands."

Buying to let is traditionally seen as a form of investment favoured most by expatriates or investors with big portfoencourage smaller private in-vestors in the UK, who have been discouraged before.

Until now, people with mortgages on properties bought to let have paid between one and three percentage points more than owner-occupiers, Because let properties produce income, lenders classified mortgages on them as commercial.

Buy-to-Let means that anyone buying a property to let can now borrow on the same terms as owner-occupiers. Their potential rental income will now also be taken into account when their ability to meet repayments is assessed. Landlords will still be able to offset interest paid on mort-

Investors can now borrow on same terms as

owner-occupiers

gages against tax on the rental The Woolwich has had

5,000 inquiries since plans for the scheme were announced Ms McCallum is also aware

of the investment benefits. Even on the outskirts of London, rental yields are terrific," she says. "If you buy a property for £100,000, and pay £25,000 cash, and take out a mortgage for the balance, the

capital value in a year, this would add £5,000 to the £25,000 originally invested. This would mean that your £25,000 would have grown by 20 per cent in one year, giving a better return than in many other investments.

The rentals market is strong most areas, according to Richard Donnell, of Savills Research, which is generally ad-vising clients to invest in property to let. He says: "Property investment is definitely something to be thought about. Things are looking good for the market over the next 12 months, and I believe that residential property will grow as a way of investment for institut-

ions and private individuals."
Diana Rowell, of Strutt & Parker London Lets, agrees. She sees buying to let as a wise option for people with capital to invest, and, with prices rising, she advises potential landlords not to waste any time.

She says: "Someone with a bonus, or a retired person with money to invest, can make their money work twice for them, through the rental income and the capital gain on the value of the property. There aren't any bargains out there in London, but there are a few in the country, as long as you are prepared to spend money doing up the property."

enders usually expect one of the 1,200 Arla age the purchase and letting of rental properties for clients. Letting agents hope the independent advice offered by Arla will encourage more people into the housing market.

Ms Rowell says: "People

looking to move into the housing market often don't know where to look for impartial advice. Historically, people don't trust estate agents, but Arla is an independent body, bound by their word and advice, and able to recommend the best agent."

Arla will suggest to potential landlords a good agent for the area and type of property required. The agent will ask what a client wants to spend, and suggest suitable properties, the price the buyer should pay, what should be spent on the property, and how much it will earn. Arla will also vet potential tenants, draw up tenancy agreements and manage the property.

Arla is on 0171-734 0655

Fixed rate could pay long-term

Nationwide that property prices have risen 7 per cent over the past 12 months will give some solace to those people who have been caught in the negative equity trap over

the past five years or so. The moribund housing market is finally showing some signs of life, with reports of gazumping in some places and tales of shortages property

Many people embarking on the process of buying a property for the first time may be overwhelmed by the choice of loan products now available.

One of the first decisions many borrowers will have to make is whether to opt for a fixed-rate or variable-rate

mortgage.
The type of loan to choose depends on the long-term outlook for interest rates. The rates for

two-, threefive-fixed and year loans pend what the City believes rate of interest could be in the future.

The average man or woman is unlikely to have had to grapple with this conundrum before, but there are a few points to consider. Most mortgage brokers believe that interest rates are at, or close to, their lowest point.

Government, whichever political party is in power, may be forced to raise interest rates to try to dampen down the inflationary pressures that appear to be building up in the economy - it is unlikely that the current variable rates of 6.99 per cent will be maintained for much longer.

Brokers point out that rates on five-year fixes are around I to 1.5 per cent higher than the variable

Many borrowers are reluctant to take out a mortgage that has a rate that is higher than the variable rate offered by their lender. The market for two-year

The Stockmarket

has grown over

79% in 5 years

around the 5 per cent mark lower than the prevailing variable rates.

Simon Tyler, of Chase de Vere, the mortgage broker, said: "The most popular rates at the moment are still the two-year rates. We would prefer borrowers to take a longer-term view,

The price of long-term rates has edged up over the last few months, but there is a general view that a change of government may not be as bad as was expected. There is no question that interest rates will rise.

Mr Tyler points out that those borrowers who are unwilling to take out a mortgage with a rate that is higher than the average variable rate could opt for a capped loan. A capped loan has a rate that is guaranteed not to rise above a certain level

for a set per-'There is iod of time. "The Skipton Building no question Society is that interest currently offering a fivewill rise'

rates

year capped rate at 7.95 rowers who choose this rate will start on

the building society's variable rate of 6.84 per cent. As with most fixes, the deal carries an arrangement fee. of £295. lan Darby, of John Charcol, mortgage brokers.

said: "People are just not buying the longer-term fixed rates at the moment. They are not interested in taking out fixes where the rates are around the 7.75 per cent mark. This is a shortterm attitude." Mr Darby recommended

five-year rates from the Britannia, at 7.74 per cent. NatWest, at 7.75 per cent, and the Yorkshire, at 7.85 per cent.

Anyone who opts for a fixed rate will have to pay an arrangement fee. They should also make sure that they take note of any redemption penalties.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Lancastrian looks south for home to let

O ne Times reader, Christopher Rolfe, 36, a surveyor in Lancashire, is eager to buy to let. He started approaching lenders about a month ago, before the scheme was launched.

Buying to let would suit Mr Rolfe. He says: "I

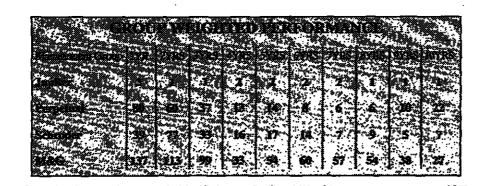
owned my own home until three years ago. My house at the moment comes with the job. but I feel that now is really the time to get back into the housing market as it is definitely rising." Mr Rolfe contacted many of the lenders in the area where he lives to see whether they were interested in properties bought to let. But the most he was offered was a commercial mortgage, and several lenders said it was just not their policy to offer mortgages on investment property.

"I was surprised at the number of building societies who just would not entertain the idea. But since the launch of Buy-to-Let. I have seriously started looking for somewhere to buy, and the Woolwich have just sent me details of the scheme. I would like to buy somewhere down South, and have arranged a couple of places to have a look at in the Surrey area," he says.

ort



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How hard does your company pension work?

published this week by Union Pension Services, a pension specialist, uncovered huge differences between the benefits provided by 200 major company final salary-type pension schemes. Final salary schemes, which have their origins in Victorian public sector pension funds, provide pensions linked to earnings.

OCTOBERS !

The 200 schemes were compared to a hypothetical scheme constructed by UPS. Only a fraction made the grade. Bryn Davies, an actu-ary with Union Pension Services, said: "We did not make the target pension a perfect scheme. We just tried to make it what we feel to be fair."

UPS took into account a number of criteria. When comparing final salary schemes it is important to look at how the benefits accrue. Each year of service will huy a proportion of pension equal to a fraction of the final salary.

For instance, under many schemes one year of employment will buy a pension equivalent to 160 of the final salary. Hence, 40 years of service will provide the maximum pension allowable under present Inland Revenue rules - two thirds of

final salary. Retirement age is another criterion. Some schemes allow members to retire early without any reduction in

Employees may not get the

benefits they

bargain for, says Caroline Merrell

benefits, while others will considerably reduce the pen-

One final aspect of com-pany pension schemes which can be compared is the basis on which contributions and benefits are assessed. The pension should be linked to gross pay, including over-time. Differences will also occur in the levels of contributions made by employers and employees.

The target scheme against which all the other schemes were measured in the survey assumed automatic scheme membership with a minimum age of 18. The final pension is based on gross salary, and the retirement age is set at 60. Each year of service with this company will buy pensions benefits

worth '60 of final salary. The pension increases in line with the retail price index (RPI), and offers death in service benefit of four times the gross pension. Perhaps the most generous benefit offered by the model scheme is the spouse's pension — if

of the pension, based on the size of pension before the taxfree lump sum has been taken out.

The survey compared the 200 schemes against this model, coming up with a percentage ligure about how

they performed.
Only 14 schemes had equivalent or better benefits than the model scheme. The BP. Woolwich, Reckitt & Colman. Whitbread, Hoover, Halifax, Granada and Nationwide.

the 200 schemes surveyed, 37 offered benefits which were at least 90 per cent equivalent to the model scheme. This group included those offered by Boots, ICI, Bradford & Bingley, Wimpey and Norwich Union.

Among the worst schemes were those offered by John Menzies, Forte, Rentokil, Rank Organisation and Express Newspapers.
For example, the John

Menzies scheme was deemed to offer benefits that were only a third as good as the model scheme. Each year of service under the John Menzies scheme buys a pension which is only equivalent to ' 100 Of final salary.

Union Pension Services can be contacted on 0171 737 0682. The full survey costs £295.

TOP RUNNERS

Spread the word

or so long ago no one talked about pensions for fear of being found dull. Now they are respectable, smart even, with some young men boasting of their turbocharged pension plans in the same way that they talk about new cars. However, the message that pensions are important has yet to be universally spread, and the emphasis in the debate remains too

much on the state scheme. Baroness Castle of Blackburn's attempt this week to urge the Labour Party to restore the link between the basic state pension and earnings was well-intentioned. But in highlighting the deficiencies of the state scheme. this pensioner militant diverted attention from the equally noteworthy shortcomings in other arrangements.

In the last few days, as we report on this page, a survey has appeared revealing that not all company pension schemes are equal.

Membership of a final salary scheme, where the benefits are less dependent on the vagaries of share prices, would seem to be the ideal solution to saving for retirement. But the survey shows that members of some such schemes would be foolish to believe that they could contemplate Rolls-Royce pensions. Although it's good to be with the Woolwich scheme, the yield from the Milk Marque fund will apparently be less generous. Most fortunate of

we would all vote to be in. Those elderly people now struggling to survive on the current basic state pension of £3,180 a year would wish that they had had the opportunity

all are MPs, whose scheme



ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance **Editor**

to provide for themselves through final salary schemes. But thousands of today's workers in these supposedly superior schemes still have no guarantee of a comfortable retirement.

It's a jungle out there

INVESTMENTS with a zoological bent seem fated to take a tumble, even when the creatures concerned can show a good turn of speed.

The scandal of the Ostrich Farming Corporation, where several thousand fanciers spent E22 million on birds that may or may not exist. has been swiftly followed by the greyhound tale.

About 500 people invested £800,000 in units in the Anderson Churchill greyhound syndicate. Alerted by a concerned investor, the Securities and Investments Board has frozen the assets of Anderson Churchill, an unauthorised firm. Now the only chance of seeing their cash returned is perhaps a

court case later this year. These episodes illustrate the risks of investing in schemes - flesh, fowl or otherwise - where no watchdog keeps guard. Before signing a cheque, study our six-point guide (see page 32) to spotting an unsafe investment.

NU plays by the book

INSURANCE companies are not usually known for their finesse. Their relationships with their customers are characterised by indifference, punctuated by the odd bonus statement where the optimistic words contrast strangely with the depressing figures.

But Norwich Union appears to have been dipping into books of etiquette. The terms of the flotation seem intended to please as many people as possible. There will even be a payout for non-profit policyholders. who usually get left off the guest list for smart events.

Health, household and motor policyholders are not invited to the bunfight. They may be piqued but they should not be inconsolable. Life and pension policyholders may be about to receive free shares. But Norwich Union has not made any commitment to freeze its charges on these policies

after its change of status. This could mean that some of their windfall profit will be wiped away in higher deductions from premiums. Meanwhile, with the capital raised from the flotation. Norwich Union will be eagerly competing in the general insurance market, perhaps making car and contents cover cheaper. Who will be celebrating then?

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Granada, maker of Coronation Street, has a good plan

Table shows how some of the

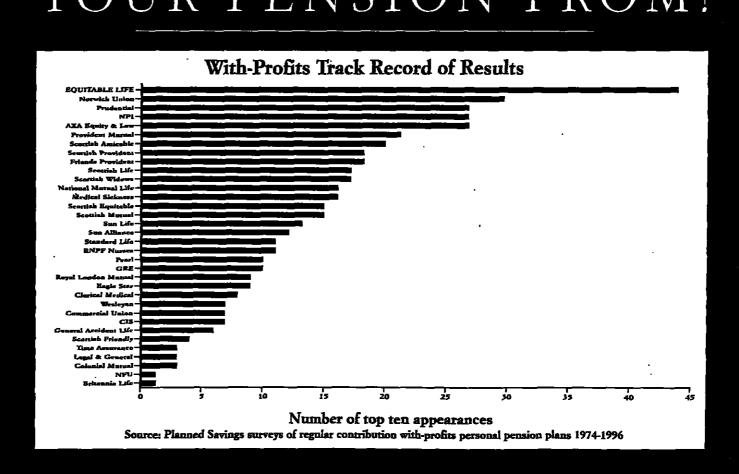
UK's biggest pension schemes match a hypothetical model

TOP 15 Parliamentary Con Fund 126% **BP Scheme** Woolwich Reckitt & Coleman 104% Hydro-Electric Scheme Johnson Matthey National&Provincial Whittpread 100% 100% 100% 99% Hoover Halifax General Accident

BOTTOM 15 Rentokil

53% 52% 52% 51% 42% 50% 50% 49% 48% 47% 45% 37% United Glass Sea-Land WEir Group

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Well, our simple table above should give them the facts they need to make an informed choice.

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is consistency of results year-in year-out that gives people the peace of mind they

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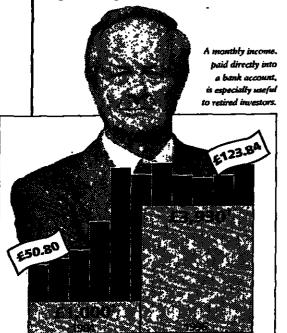
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nte in the first calendar year would have totalled £56.96 and totalled £56.43 last year

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Steel yourself for bumpy road ahead



ost shareholders may have been ready to open the champagne to cheer a record week on the stock market, but British Steel shareholders will be feeling far from bubbly. A broker's decision to shift BS from "buy" to "hold" made the share the worst performer in the FT-SE 100 on Tuesday. Although they crept upwards for the rest of the week, the improvement did not reflect the record FT-SE gains.

Turbulence is nothing new for British Steel shareholders. From when the shares started trading, in December 1988, until 1992, they convincingly underperformed the all-share index. Since then, there has been an improvement, but the general feeling is this high-yielding stock carries big risks. The sector is so volatile that

The sector is so volatile that Alan Coats, analyst at Merrili Lynch, says: "Pensioners who invest in British Steel should also invest in heart pills."

How popular was the privatisation?

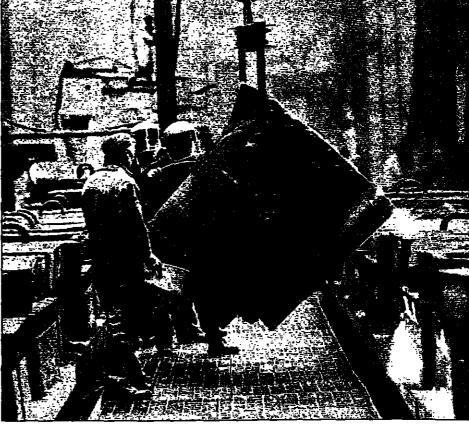
By the time that British Steel was privatised in late 1988, the Government no longer had to convince punters that there was money to be made in buying shares. Earlier issues, such as the first stage of the British Telecom privatisation, had performed exceptionally well. As a result, the British Steel share offer was hugely oversubscribed.

How have the shares performed?

share for British Steel in 1988. By 1992, the shares had hit a low of 46.5p. Anyone who bought shares then will have done well. The share price has risen fairly consistently since, hitting a peak of 199.5p in April. Today, they trade at about 195p. Initial investors would have done better to have bought other shares, but British Steel investors still did better than those who left their money in the building society.

Why has the price been so erratic?

Steel companies are erratic performers, at the mercy of demand from other industries and economic cycles. In addition, British Steel was badly in need of an overhaul when privatised and spent heavily to become more competitive. The last recession hit not long after privatisation, taking a bite out of the



year's earnings would be hurt

although it still expected results to be satisfactory. British

Steel may be in better shape

now than it was going into the last recession, but there are

still reasons to be concerned.

Worries are widespread

about steel prices in Europe,

which have fallen sharply this

year. About 80 per cent of

British Steel's sales are in

Europe, where oversupply is

putting pressure on prices.

decided to lower its rating on

pricing environment in recent

months, although it expects

Lyonnais this week

weak markets in Europe,

Karen Zagor on ups and downs of the privatised British producer

company's profits and share price. Now, British Steel is a trimmer, more efficient version, with lower labour costs, allowing it to be a leading low-cost producer. This year, the shares firmed amid expectations that steel demand was set to pick up and rumours that the company was about to make a share buyback. The buyback speculation died down after the chairman said investing in new capacity was a higher priority.

What about its financial performance?

After achieving record A profits within two years of privatisation, the financial performance started to slump. By 1992, it was reporting pretax losses, which continued into 1993. The dividend, at 4.5p a share in 1992, fell to lp a share in 1993. By 1994, earnings and dividends had started to recover, with pre-tax profits of £80 million and a dividend of 2p a share. By 1995, the dividend was 7.5p a share. More recently, the company reported 1996 pre-tax profits of El.1 billion, with a 10p dividend.

What does the market expect?

A In spite of its recent record results, analysts

ups and downs

British producer

are cautious about the future.
In June, when British Steel issued its annual results, it said that it was at the peak of its current cycle and that this

improvement in the second half of this year and into 1998. A week earlier, NatWest Securities issued a "sell" rating on the shares, noting that investors can get a similar yield on gilts with less risk.

NatWest's concern centres on the fact that steel-using industries are in decline in Europe and that growth indus-

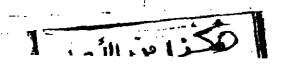
NatWest's concern centres on the fact that steel-using industries are in decline in. Europe and that growth industries have little use for steel. In addition, some analysts are concerned that British Steel will not be able to maintain its dividend through the next economic downturn.

On a more positive note, the company has a strong cashflow that should help it through the next downturn and is unlikely to face much competition from US steel producers, who are busy with buoyant demand at home. Similarly, its extremely low cost base will help it through times of trouble. And some analysts believe its dividend level is sustainable even if profits slide.



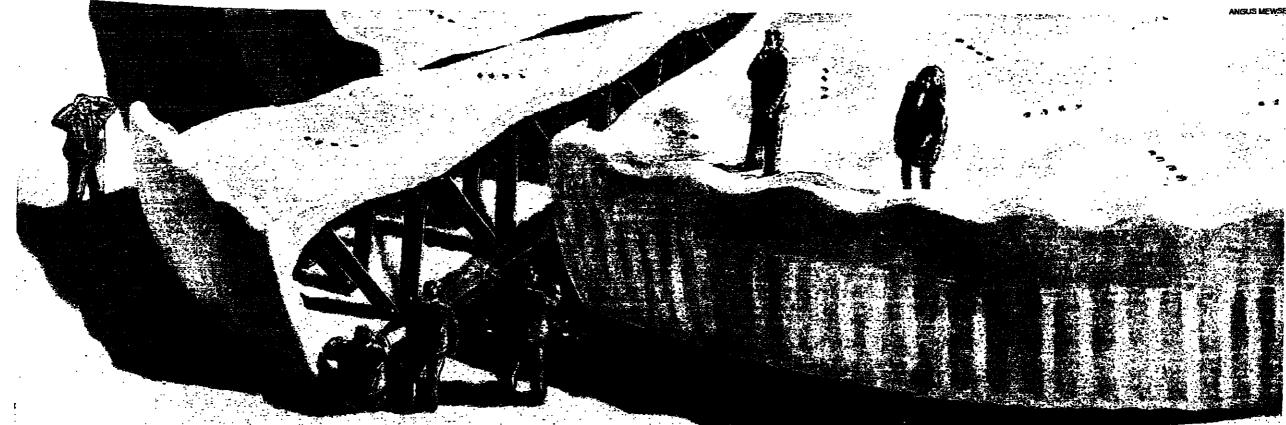
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Direct Lie

Adam Jones on the possible pitfalls for investors when they are offered investment trust warrants



Warrants, when they are exercised, can also store up problems for the future by diluting the value of existing holdings. There are suddenly more shares, so the slices of the pie get smaller

Buy five and get one free, but can warrants be such a bargain?

offer you find in your local supermarket - buy five, get one free. But in the world of investment trusts, things aren't quite so simple.

increasingly, people buying into new investment trusts find they get a little extra - a warrant for every five shares they purchase.

A warrant is an option but not an obligation - to buy a further share at a fixed price in the future. Typically, this exercise price is 100p.

The idea is that the share price of the investment trust will soar past this mark, leaving the warrant holder with the happy knowledge that they can exercise their right to buy new shares at a ridiculously cheap price. Or they could

rant, as they can be traded independently of the shares. The equity lists in newspapers are full of warrant prices, nestling just beneath the main entry for the ordinary shares of that investment trust. Their value could be anything from a few pence to pounds.

This price is not just dependent on the value of the Underlying share. Warrants have a fixed lifespan — ten vears or so. Beyond this point, they cannot be exercised and are worthless. And in general, the more time they have left on them, the greater their value.

WARRANTS TO WATCH

IN its latest commentary on the market, SBC Warburg recommended the following warrants. ☐ Fidelity European Values (129p, with five years to run)

☐ Martin Currie European (47.75p, with two years to run) ☐ Mercury European Privatisation (31.75p, with eight

☐ English & Scottish (61.25p, with a year and a half to run).

☐ Prolific's Income trust has also been tipped by analysts as cheap, as has Templeton Emerging Markets and the Central European Growth investment trust.

The Association of Investment Trust Companies (0171 431 5222) provides detailed information on warrant performance in its monthly bulletins.

launches. Most trusts go to a

discount when they start trad-

ing, meaning their share price

has dropped beneath the issue

price. If the fund managers

bundle warrants into the deal,

they can improve the price, simply because warrants en-

courage the market to look at

how the shares will be per-

forming in the longer term.

This sleight-of-hand generally

leads to a more favourable

rating. John Szymanowski, an SBC

Warburg analyst, says: "They are transferring future value into today's valuation." But it

can also store up problems for

Warrants, when they are exercised, dilute the value of

existing holdings — there are suddenly more shares, so the

slices of the pie get smaller. And as the assets of the

investment trust grow, the

dilutive effect of warrant exer-

Of course, unexercised warrants are an insurance policy against getting left behind when other people exercise

theirs. But you should exercise

as late as possible to ensure that you are not throwing

away the value that the time

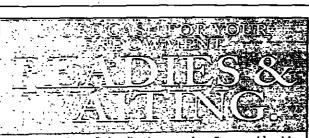
element has created. Mr Cade

says shareholders are often

cise gets bigger.

warrant holders is that it can enable them to realise some of the potential gains, without having to shell out on new shares - they may not have the capital. But this assumes there will be a buyer, by no means a certainty. Charles Cade, a Merrill Lynch analyst, points out: "Warrants are fairly illiquid." With only one warrant for each five shares, it is easy to see why they might be harder to shift than the

ordinary shares. So why are warrants there, complicating life? Basically, make the investment



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rants for their own sake? Beware, warrants are among the most sophisticated and volatile investments open to a private individual. Warrants are geared, meaning they magnify market movements. Great if things are on the up. but potentially ruinous on the return journey. A 5p fall in the underlying ordinary share, for instance, may be matched with a 5p fall in the warrant. The share price will be dented. The warrant price, which can be as much as 30 times smaller, will be devastated by this like-for-like behaviour.

warrants too early.

So what about buying war-

Not for beginners, then, and even not for many confident private investors. A lot of the analysis of warrant prices simply isn't available to the general public.

Tarrant valuation is very much a science, and there are still disagreements among professionals as to the best method. But that said, there are rumblings in the City that the warrant market is underpriced in relation to ordinary

Mr Szymanowski says: Warrants in their own right offer some very attractive opportunities. At the moment, there are lots of them that look very cheap." He says investors should look for a long life on the warrants, combined with a low premium and high gear-ing (the price of the ordinary share divided by the price of the warrant).

investors should also look at shares, says Mr Cade. If lots of income is being paid out, capital growth will be suffering - this can be bad news for

warrant holders. A final warning. The warrant market may look cheap but this may be getting things back to front. It may be that the ordinary market is overpriced, making warrants look good.

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Helen Pridham on permanent health insurance

Finding the proper policy is hard work

tant thing you need if you are ill is a continuing income. Most people appear to ignore this fact in their financial planning.

Only one in ten of the working population has insur-ance that will provide a re-placement income if they are unable to work because of illhealth. Insurers had been hoping for an upsurge in sales of this insurance, known as permanent health insurance, or PHI, when the Government reduced state sickness benefits last year and toughened its stance towards claimants.

Statistics indicate that the Department of Social Security is currently halfway to removing around 200,000 people who are considered fit for work from the incapacity

payroll.
The Government's announcement in the last Budget that income payments from PHI policies would be tax-free after April was also seen as an extra boost. Sales have now begun to pick up this year, but progress is slow.

Not everyone needs PHI. Indeed, earlier this year the Office of Fair Trading criticised insurers for exaggerating the case for taking it out. For example, if you are on a low income or your employer offers a generous sick pay scheme, there may be little

On the other hand, if you, are on an average or above average income and on shortterm contract or self-employed, PHI is well worth considering. Otherwise you could find maintaining your standard of living during a prolonged period of ill-health extremely difficult.

Cost is the factor that puts most people off, though this may be because most salesmen are anxious to sell the maximum level of cover typically for around 50 per cent of your income.

Alan Lakey, an independent financial adviser, of Highclere Financial Services, Hernel Hempstead, has adopted a different approach. He says: "I encourage clients to take out enough PHI to cover their mortgage payments initially to keep premiums at affordable levels and then suggest increases later to cover other outgoings.

Comparing costs is difficult because most PHI policies nowadays have variable premiums which are reviewed five years. Some also have an investment element that means charges, and investment performance can also impact on future premiums. A small number of companies such as Friends Provident and Swiss Life are still charging fixed premiums. Their premi-Most people would like pay-



COST OF COVER

Monthly premium for benefit of £500 per month for a male aged 30 next birthday to age 60, with 13 weeks deferred with indexed

oeneut	Class 1 occupation	Class 3 occupation
Allied Dunbar	£15.00	£ 37.13
Black Horse Lite	£12.95	£24.19
Canada Life	*£13.00	*£17.65
Friends Provident	*£11.74	*£17.42
Norwich Union	210.00	£16.33
Permanent	29.74	\$26.04
Sun Alliance	*£11.82	*218.81
Swiss Life	*£12.98	*£22.40
Zurich Life	£11.50	£19.15
Ever comiume		

Source, The Research Department

ums can be higher initially. Clive Scott Hopkins of Towry Law, independent advisers, favours fixed premium policies. He believes that prospective policyholders should think twice before taking out a

variable premium policy. They may be cheaper at habit of increasing after each review so that you can end up

paying more than with a fixed premium policy," he says. When taking out PHI, you will probably have to compromise on how quickly a policy will start to pay out benefits.

ments to start immediately they become ill, but not only is it difficult to find companies that offer this option, the cost is considerably more than if you are prepared to wait for,

say, eight or 13 weeks. However, Mr Lakey points out: "Bear in mind choosing a waiting period that because companies make payments monthly in arrears you will actually have to wait four weeks longer for your money

than you may expect initially." Benefits will be paid until

you return to work, but if your

poor health proves to be a

permanent condition and you

are unable to return to work, a PHI policy will continue to pay out until you reach your normal retirement age.

Always look carefully at how disability is defined. There are three variations. Some insurers define it as your inability to perform "any" occupation. This means if you could still do some kind of work, the company will not pay you any benefit.

Others define it as the inability to perform your own occupation or one which is 'reasonably suitable".

The third and the best definition is based on your ability to perform your own occupation only. Your occupation is also decisive in determining the level of premium you must pay. Insurers generally band occupations into four categories or "classes" according to the level of risk they believe is involved. The lowest premiums are charged to those in office-based, clerical and administrative-type occupations. The highest premiums are payable by people in higher risk jobs involving heavy manual work.

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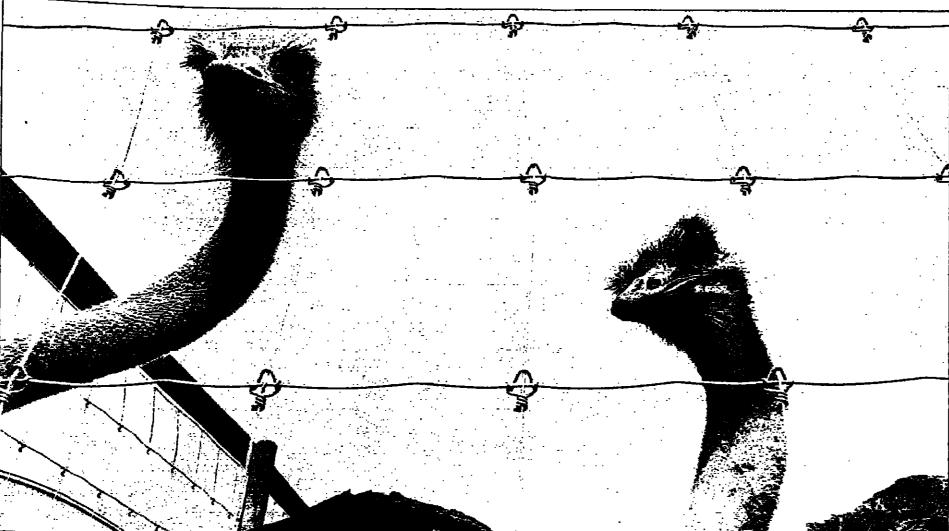
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The sorry saga of the Ostrich Farming Corporation underlines the need to carry out research before parting with your cash, particularly when the scheme is unregulated

How to give dodgy deals the bird

or the 2,700 investors who parted with about £22 million in the bosses in the hope of making a fortune by buying ostriches through the Ostrich Farming Corporation, news that their money has been siphoned off through a series of US companies is just another blow in a painful saga. as is the report that not all investors' birds have been identified.

It now seems certain that investors will lose a large chunk of their stake. Many paid up to £17,700 for the birds, which have a market value of no more than £400. Those whose birds have been identified now have a choice of leaving them where they are - on a farm in Belgium - and paying £037 for livery to the end of this year, or removing them at a cost of £600. They could also sell or abandon the birds.

One of the most galling aspects is that alarmed regulators had been watching the Ostrich Farming Cor-poration's activities for more than a year before moving to protect investors. The Securities and Investment Board (SIB) was first to become concerned, but ultimately decided activities lell

tors were buying birds, not a finan-cial product. SIB passed its notes to the Department of Trade and Industry, which took almost a year before acting to close down the company on public-interest grounds in April.

As the Ostrich Farming Corporation — and the Alchemy pyramidselling operation before it illustrate, you cannot count on the regulators to protect you from a dodgy scheme. Clever operators will always find a way round the rules.

Investors in the Ostrich Farming Corporation were not ignorant or illiterate; many had run their own businesses and had done some research into the company before-hand. Yet they might have been spared if they had paid attention to the warning signs:

Promise of exceptional returns:

The corporation said investors could count on profits of at least 51.6 per cent a year for five years. But if a company promises outstanding remake sure ii is usi

adding up percentages for every year. If a company is not using the accepted method, it is already promising more than it can deliver.

In addition, financial advisers note that the biggest profits are made by early investors in a company, usually friends, family and business associates. The real money is in spotting

■ Unsubstantiated guarantees: If a company offers a guarantee, find out what is behind it. If it is based on a market performing in a certain way over a certain period and is not backed by real funds, it is not worth much. Similarly, if a company says its product is insured, find out the insurer's name and ask them what the insurance covers. In the case of the Ostrich Farming Corporation, the literature said the birds were insured but there was no underwriter.

■ Lack of Audited Information: Investors should always check to see when a company was incorporated outside its jurisdiction because inves- pound annual growth, not simply track record is not the same as a good many years out of date and Dun & make sure you can afford to lose it.

Karen Zagor on taking steps to safeguard your investment for it to be used. If you are looking at a farming business record. After a company is

incorporated, it does not have to file an audited financial statement with

Companies House for 18 months. The

OFC did provide a balance sheet, but

Many Ostrich Farming Corpora-

tion investors did their homework

by contacting business information

groups before parting with their

money. In at least one case, a well-

known agency gave OFC a clean bill of health because there was

nothing negative known about the

company.

The Hard Sell: During its last

months of business, the corporation

told investors that prices would rise

shortly. It is never a good idea to invest under pressure. Take your time and do some research. Do not

accept the statistics given out — if the figures are attributed to a legitimate

organisation, check that it still stands

by the information. The OFC quoted

research from Dun & Bradstreet in

its literature, but the inform

it had not been audited.

investment, for example, try to find independent vets and farmers to find out about the animals, their breeding patterns, survival rates and what the market looks like.

Lavish Spending: If a company is

spending heavily on videos, glossy literature, elaborate offices and events it is worth asking where the money is coming from. If it is a new company without the backing of a wealthy parent, the money could be

■ Absence of Regulatory Protection If an investment falls outside the regulatory framework, it may have been structured that way for a reason. Investments in animals and objects are exempt from the rules that

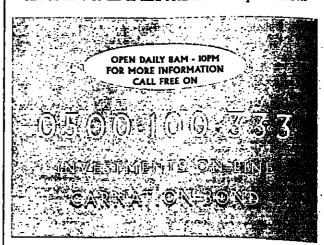
apply to the financial services sector. Literature does not have to comply with guidelines set by City regulators and, if the company collapses, investors will not be protected by the Investors Compensation Scheme. There are legitimate unregulated investments, but if you are putting

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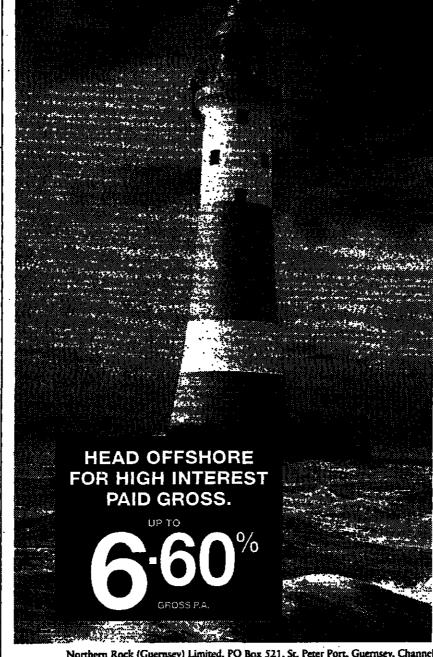
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Caroline Merrell outlines the odds when hedging on the stock market



A wrong choice of market product could cost a few smackers, but punters who backed jockey Frankie Dettori at Ascot last Saturday got it right

A tactical bet on equities

4,000 barrier. We think there may be a reappraisal on the prospects for an increase in

Fed in America has not yet dampen down inflation, and

We are concerned that the raised interest rates to try to

continue to race above the think that interest rates in this country need to go up. The market may fall."

Those interested in taking a punt on UK shares may feel it prudent to try to find an investment where they can hedge their bets.

Many financial companies offer products which will give a return linked to the rise in the UK market or other international stock markets, and will also guarantee to return capital if the market falls. Some will also even give a return if the markets fall.

As with many complicated betting systems, these products can be difficult to understand, and the cost of hedging an investment against falls in the market, could outweigh the gains.

For instance, a product which will pay a return, even if the market falls, is likely to capture less of the rise in the market than a product which only guarantees to return the

capital.

The guaranteed-style products on offer can come in the form of personal equity plans, unit trusts or life insurance bonds. They are suitable for those with a lump sum to invest and usually have a fiveyear investment span. Peps have a more advantageous tax position than bonds, and

terms of lost performance.

1.5 per cent.

your own tax position.

than one stock market.

your risk profile.

bonds tend to have higher upfront charges. This does not mean that the bond products should be disregarded — it all depends on the nature of the

guarantee, or the hedge.

Most schemes will put a small proportion of money in derivatives to produce a return linked to the index, while the rest of the money is held on deposit to provide the return of capital. Other schemes will simply offer an insurance

policy against any falls.

Marks & Spencer and Barclays are both offering

Make sure you are happy over the price for the guarantee

guaranteed Peps at the moment. Both are five-year investments which will track the performance of the FT-SE 100 index. If the market falls over the five-year period then both plans will return the original capital to investors. The Peps have slightly different charging structures, with Barelays having a higher upfront charge but a smaller annual charge. HSBC is also offering

guaranteed-type product which will pay out 125 per cent of the rise in the FT-SE-100 over five years plus a return of the capital if the market falls.

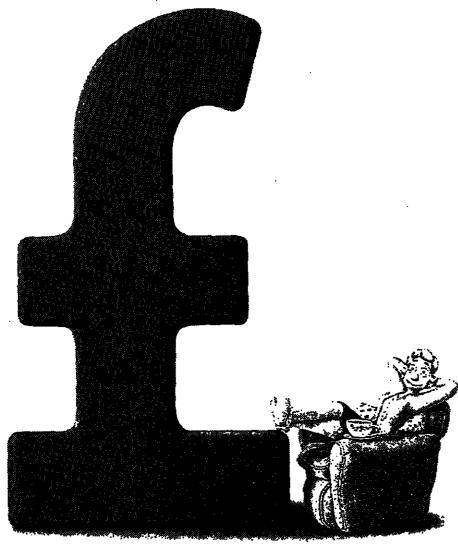
Other companies, including Premier Investment, offer products which will lock in the gains in the market on a quarterly basis. This guards against all the gains being knocked out by a sudden market correction at the end of the five-year period. Other companies offering guaran-teed style products include Scottish Widows. Edinburgh Fund Managers. Natwest and Clerical Medical.

Fiona Price of Fiona Price & Partners, says: "Obviously, the first thing for anyone who is interested in taking out one of these products to do is to make sure they fully understand the nature of the guarantee. They need to under-stand what level of risk they are willing to undertake, and whether they are happy to pay

the price for the guarantee. With markets at their present level, some sort of guaranteed product may be

important, " she added. Mike Usher an adviser Brooks MacDonald Gayer, says: "Investors have to be aware of the what the guarantee is. Bonds offering guarantees may be disadvantageous to non-taxpayers because they cannot claim back the tax which has already been paid from the product. Peps, on the other hand, are free from both income and capital gains tax." Ian Millward, of Chase de Vere, says: "Some products offer returns linked to markets other than the UK, which may be worth considering."

Something certain in an uncertain world.



How sure is a sure thing? After all, the world of interest rates thrives on fluctuations, so finding a safe place to invest your money and get a decent rate into the bargain isn't easy.

Trankie Dettori's unprec-

at Ascot last week was a

- edented seven-horse win

bonanza for the punters. For

once they managed to get the

better of the bookies, fleecing

them to the tune of £30

Investing in the stock mar-

ket could be as financially

rewarding, but as with betting

on the horses, it also carries a

The odds may now be

stacked against any further

rises in the price of shares on

the UK and US markets - as

both are close to all-time highs.

Stockbrokers, says: "We do

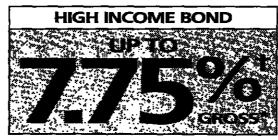
not believe the UK market will

Jeremy Batstone, of Natwest

high degree of risk.

million.

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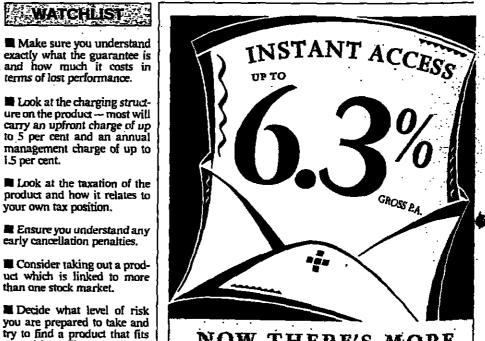
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The above rate of 7.75% is the gross* annual rate payable on investments of £100,000 and over. The gross* monthly rate is 7.50%. For investments of £20,000 to £99,999, the rates are 7.50% gross* annually, 7.25% gross* monthly. On investments of £2,000 to £19,999 the rates are 7.25% gross* annually, 7.00% gross* monthly. The minimum investment is £2,000, "Without UK income tax deducted. The rate of interest is fixed until the Bond matures on the 2nd January, 2002. Interest a payable either annually or monthly. No withdrawals or further investments allowed during the term. Interest will be payable net of the applicable rate of income tax (which may be rectained by non-capapars) or gross subject to the required registration. Full Terms and Conditions are included in the product leaflet available on request.

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while Sarah Jones looks at low-risk with-profit bonds

It can take time to earn the best rates

The with profits bond is being hailed as the safe alternative to paltry building society rates. But be warned, pick your provider carefully to get the best returns, and it must be seen as a long-term investment.

DBER 5 1996

(market

The top with profit bonds. which are lower risk investments, are currently the best alternative to cash deposits. These deposits are now providing the lowest returns for 143 years," says David Aaron of David Aaron Parmership, independent financial advisers.

The latest guide to with-priffits bonds from David Aaron shows that the average fiveyear returns after charges and basic rate tax have risen to S per cent, compared with 7.6 per cent a year ago.

However, the report also shows the gulf between the best and worst performers. The best are Prudential (10 per cent net of basic rate tax, over five years to April), General Accident (9.8 per cent) and Sun Life (8.4 per cent). That compares with Axa Equity & Law (7 per cent). Legal & General (b.9 per cent) and London & Manchester (6.4 per cent). With-profits bonds are

Average five-year returns after charges have risen to 8 per cent

aimed at traditional building society investors seeing their capital eroded by inflation. A with-profits bond, on the other hand, should produce growth over and above inflation.

Mr Aaron gives the example of Sun Life which, over the past five years, has returned 8.4 per cent a year. Take inflation into account and that is a real return of 5.5 per cent, compared with an annualised building society return of 4.6

Until a few years ago withprofits policies could only be bought as regular premium whole of life or long-term savings plans, but now several major life companies are offering lump sum with-profits policies. As with other investment bonds, you give a lump sum to the life assurance company, which invests your money along with that of other investors in stocks and shares and government securities.

the return on with-profits bands is calculated differently from other bonds. The company manages the increase in the fund's value, to even out the rise and fall in the value at different times. It does this by retaining some of the increase in the value so that it can allocate a bonus at the end of each year, even in had years,



and can also allocate a terminal bonus at the end of your term of investment.

"These bonds are only for people who recognise they need to invest for capital growth but can't stand much more risk than the building society," says Yvonne Rose of Diane Saunders, independent financial advisers. "If they can cope with the risk I would suggest unit or investment

trusts instead With-profits bonds can provide a 5 per cent tax-free income for all taxpayers but higher-rate taxpayers will have to pay some tax on their profits when they cash their

Basic-rate taxpayers can take any withdrawals free of tax and penalties up to 7.5 per cent in most cases, but take out more than the bonuses have earned and you will be eating

into capital. It is the use of bonuses to smooth out market fluctuations, together with its type of investments, that makes with ever, low risk also means slow

growth and these bonds have to be seen as a long-term investment, preferably ten years, to maximise growth.

You also need several years to minimise the impact of charges. The initial charge, which includes commission to intermediaries, is usually around 5 per cent. Bonuses should normally be declared net of annual management charges.

With commission of up to-6.5 per cent, the investment immediately takes a knock. It is only recently that insurance companies have let advisers

themselves decide how much commission to take," says Ms

At Diane Saunders any commission above 3 per cent is put back into your bond. David Aaron will also reduce the initial charge depending on the amount invested.

☐ For a copy of the With Profits Bond Guide, send £1 to David Aaron Partnership. Shelton House,-High Street Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes MK17 8SD. Diane Saunders IFA:

WITH PROFIT LEAGUE TABLE PERFORMANCE TABLE: LUMP SUM £10,000

Соспрепу	A WITH PHOFITS Compound Annual Fistes 5 yrs to 1.4.96 (or since launch if less then than 5 yrs)	Real return after inflation over 5 years to 1.4.96	S Yr Returns Up or down since Oct 1995
PRUDENTIAL	10%	7.1%	Up to 1.8%
GENERAL ACCIDENT	9.8%	6.9%	Up to 0.7%
SUN LIFE	8.4%	5.5%	Down 0.5%
EQUITABLE	8.1%	5.2%	Down 0.2%
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	7.9%	5,0%	⊓/a
ROYAL	7.8%	4.9%	Up 0.3%

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their personal pension plans, should you wish to make

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don't have to commit yourself to paying identical

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your pension fund is in the hands of one of the finest

off the coupon below for further information by post and by

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I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans. I say self employed 📋 — TMPF6D

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Abbey National Investment (90 Day Notice)	3.15%	3.15%	3.35%	3.35%	4.00%	4.00%	4.55%	4.55%
Halifax Solid Gold · (90 Day Notice)	2.75%	2.75%	3.05%	3.05%	3.80%	3.80%	4.30%	4.30%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	N/A	3.10%	3.10%	3.85%	3.85%	4.60%	4.60%

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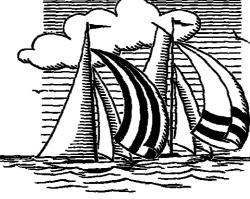
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For those thinking of setting up a trust, the Inland Revenue has produced a useful guide to the basic types of private family trust and how they are taxed. The trusts covered are bare trusts, interest in possession, discretionary, accumulation and mixed trusts. The booklet explains what to do when a trust is created and when it ceases. Trusts is available from your local tax inquiry centre or tax office.

Self-employed homebuyers of-ten have difficulty in finding the right mortgage to meet their needs, particularly those

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with a fluctuating cashllow UBC Home Loans thinks it has the answer. The "Really Useful Mortgage" allows bor-rowers to withdraw or repay funds without incurring an early settlement charge or further advance fees. The mortgage is also available to those who are unable to provide accounts. For a quotation, call 0645 401400.

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Alfrance & Leic BS 0645 228858	Instnt Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40	Yły
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Inst Acc Post	Postal	£10,000	5.85	YŊ
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Inst Acc Post:	Postal	\$25,000	6.05	Ylý
		Notice			interes
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	paid
Cheltsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 20 day	20 day p	£5,000	6.05	YŊ
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day p	£100	5.50	Yħ
Greenwich BS 0181 858 8212	One Yr Term Shr	1 year	52,500	6.50	Yi
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	Fixed Rate Bond	31.3.98	£5,000	6.60	F/ON
	· .	Notice			Interes
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	paid
Sun Benking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed rate	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Yty
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed rate	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Yly
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721		5 year	£1,000	7.00	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	€500	6.80	Yły

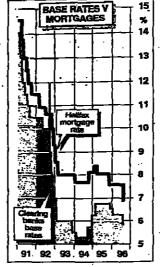
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PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payme with insurance		0 for 3yrs insurance
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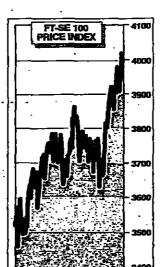
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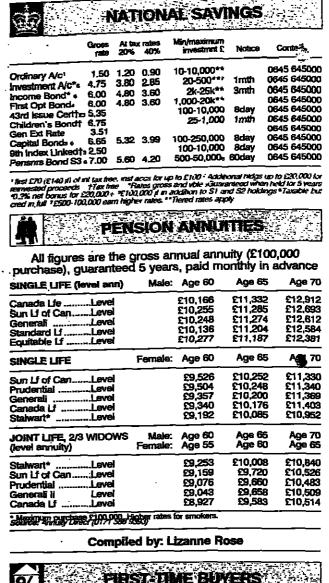
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Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.74	£15k+	95	3.25% disc for months.
Newbury 01635 43676	4.24	£15-150k	95	2.50% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Bankofireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 m 3% disc 6 mths
TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.25	£15k+	95	3.74% disc for months.

THE
THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE NINETIES CAN YOU ALWAYS GET YOUR COPY?
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GUARANTEED INCOME BON	DS .
ANNUAL INCOME	
Rates as at October 3, 1996	
	Stanc

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	•		
	5.000	AIG Life	4.85
	10,000	AIG Life	4.95
	20,000	AIG Life	5.05
	50,000	AIG Life	5.10
2 Years			
	1.000	Premium Life	4.45
	3,000	111 Lon & Edin	5.70
	20,000	AIG Life	5.75
	50,000	AIG Life	5.85
3 Years			
	1.000	Premium Life	5.00
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.10
4 Years			
	1.000	Premium Life	5,35
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6,35
5 Years			
	1.000	Premium Life	5.65
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.90

	- COUPON	_ price	yesta	pinc	#1/CAN IL
Birmingham Midshire	9.375%	102.51	9.137	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11,625%	123.03	9,449	100,13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13,000%	138.60	9.379	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13,375%	143.08	9.348	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13,000%	138.01	9.419	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12,125%	130.29	9.282	100,75	1,000
First National	11.750%	121.76	9.650	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	96.24	9.092	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12,000%	128.76	9.082	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	148.27	9,189	100,00	50,000
eeds & Holbeck	13.375%	143.91	9,294	100,23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	119.17	9.003	100,32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	139.42	9.056	100,45	1,000
Northern Rock	12,625%	139.81	9.030	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12,875%	138.58	9.291	100.48	1,000
	Gross	Buyin	n 1	 SSUe	Minimum
FLOATING RATE	conbou	_ pric	ž į	orice _	purchase
	 -			orice 0.00	
Cheshire (28/09-27/03)8.41563%	pric	3 10		1,000 1,000
FLOATING RATE Cheshire (28/09-27/03) First Nat((20/09-20/03) PIBS = Permanent interest Source ABN AMPO House ()8.41563% 8.48750% beering shared Sowett — 0171	pric 107.6 101.6 801 0101	3 10	0.00	1,000
Cheshire (28/09-27/03) First Nat(20/09-20/03) PIBS = Permanent interest)8.41563% 8.48750% beering shared Sovett — 0171	107.6 101.6 101.6 601 0101	3 10	0.00	1,000 1,000
Cheshire (28/09-27/03) First Nat(20/09-20/03) PIBS = Permanent interest Source ABN AMPO House (SHARE IN FOCUS:)8.41563% 8.48750% beering shared Sovett — 0171	107.6 101.6 101.6 601 0101	3 10	0.00	1,000 1,000

coupon

50,000 50,000 1,000	Bank of Ireland 01734 510100 Barclays Bank 0800 000929	0.99 3.49	£20-145k £15-500k	95 95	6.25 disc for 6 mths, 3% - 6 mth 3.50% discount for 12 months
1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 Minimum	%	L	RGER I	LOAI	
purchase		Laborate	Loan	Max.	
1,000	Lender	rate %	size	MELX	Notes
1,000	Building Societies				
	Scarborough 0800 590547	0.05	to \$250k	70	Rate fixed for 12 months.
	Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.20	to £150k	70	Fixed for 1 yr.
160 150 140	Mansfield 01246 202055	0.39	£75-125k	90	6.35% disc-6mth 2%-6mth, 1%- 12mt
130	Banks				
120 110	Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k		-6.25%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
100 101 90 Cct 80	Barclays 0800 000929	3.49	£15-500k		3,50% discount for 12 months
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LARGER LENDERS

1.39 5200-300k

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GON LIFE A	LEST/R	MCE			UK Opportunity	263.70	257.80	+ 2.20	
Baburgh Park,			ILL SSE		Euro Opportunity		292.20	+ 250	
SI 339 GIGI					North Amer Opp	230.90	250.60	+ 3,80	
lanced	530,90	361.JI	- 0.50		Far East Opp	213.30	225.70	- 4.70	
C Equity	698.30	739.00	• 1.00		Creath Prop Ser 1	171.30	180.90	- 400	
operty	416.60	440.90	- B.60		Gilb Prop Ser 2	207.80	219.80	+ 1.40	
ed interest	170,90	342.50			Fixed Int	228,70	241.90	+ 210	
mey	267.90		+ 0.20		Cash	169.90	179.70	+ 0.20	
emational	436 10	462.40	- 2.0	• • •	CVEFSERS	261.60	27630	+ 0.10	
BEY LIFE					Formerly LAS Managed Pund	423.40	445.70	+ 220	
ddenhary Ro	of Rose				UK Entity	737.10	775.90	• 640	
B SAL			-		Property	286.53	301.90	+ 200	• • • •
202 292373					Money Market	269.20	283.40	+ 0.20	
stodlan S4	196.90	205.90	+ 0.50		Fixed Interest	132.20	349.70	+ 3.10	
bleat 54	161.50	170.10	+ 0.10	•••	Japan	354.ID	372.80	- 8.70	
estruational S4	224.60	236.50	- 0.20		Noteh America	210.80	221.90	- 3.40	
precised Gith S4	123.30	129.50			International	474.20	425.90	+ 0.10	
bun Pacific	207.30	218. 3 0	- 1.40		European	353.20	371.20	• 3.20	
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op Pd Ser 4	342.30	413.00	+ 0.1Q		_				
olly Ser 4	271.50	285.00	+ 0.40		CANADA LIFE				
an Ser 4	786-60	825. LO	+ 210		26 High Street,	Potters	Bar. He	rts ENG	5B4
KIV SET 4	351.80	370.40	• 0.10		01707 5(122				
oney Ser 4	351.50	370.00	- 0.40		Equity Growth !	292.80			
ted i,m Ser 4 nerican Ser 4	.901.70 161.20	412.40		•••	Managed	398.10	414.10	- 240	
eh inc Ser 4	210.00	852.70	+ 4.80 + 4.70	•••	Property Cit & Pad Ini	258.60	272.30	• 340	
gn ne ser 4 desed inv Ser 4		242.90	+ 1.50			271.10	285.40	- 290	•••
meneu inv ser v	34L70	399.70	- 7.30	•••	Equity Cash	467.40	492.00	+ 3.40	•••
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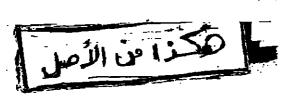
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707 42311	Property Fund 550.90 579.90 - 1.30	1
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op Pd Acc 470.70 495 40 + 0.30	Militan Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101	1
ultiple inv Acc 1245.10 (3)[160 +(0.20 .	Property Pund 169.40 178.40 + 0.70	•
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d Lnt Dep Acc 401.60 422.80 • 0.30	INVESTMENTS	ŀ
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openty Acc 639.10 672.80 + 0.20	Assurance Punds	ļ
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rerseas Are 1186.20 1248.70 +12.00		
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ner Equity Acc: 1087.10 1144.40 + 7.20	Gill & Flaced (mr. 228.80 240.50 + 140	
ner Mari Acc 456.60 480.70 + 2.70	Indexed Sect 184,00 193,70 - 1.30	,
ner Prop Acc 119.70 (26.00 - 0.50	Cash 201.80 212.50 + 0.20	L
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KA EQUITY & LAW LIFE	Intermational 281.20 296.10 - 1.20	1
SSURÂNCE		
nersham Road, High Wycombe, Backs		1
694 463463	Inti Income 353.10 371.70 + 2.10	
	EUROPEAN 404 40 425.70 + LAG	(,
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stribution Ser 6 103.90 109.30 + 070 6.95	-do-Spec 194.30 - 0.20	
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leed Dep Ser b	3[474]	336.30	+ 0.30	international Acc	351.00	376.90	- 0.50	· 1
	_			Special Sits	671.60	707.03	+ 2.80	
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o- Indial	654 00	568.50	- 5 10	Colonial Medical	LIVAL	GROUI		J
H Edged Acc	435.00		• 4.80	Kest ME44YY.	Picone	CHARLE		KC,
o Initial	272.40	286,80	- 2.90	COM MEASTI.		0.000		- 1
ternational Ac		493.30	- 2-40	(Units): Key I	227.59		-15.06	
			- 0.90	-do-Pacemaker i				- 1
o- initial	.40.10	.05.30	- 0.40	-do-Cash	216.21	227.54		. 1
anaged Acc	629.60		- 2.90	-do-Emity	654.72			. 1
o- initial	772.30		+ L80	do Fail Int	402.57			• 1
oney Act	3(2.20	334.70	• (1.20	-Go-Managed	466.00		1.36	
ODETY ACC	314.10	370.70	• 0.30	-do-Property	333,73	351.29	- 241	. 1
o initial	194.60	204.90		Pensy Cash Cap	214.45			• т
merica Acc	172.20	391,80	• 1.80	-do-Cash Inv	134.77		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	·
r East Gwrtz	251.30	204.60	- 0.60	-do-Equity Cap	(17.25			
napolal Acc	467.10	495.40	• 290	-do-Equity inv				.]
O ACCUME	531.50	599.90	- 0.70	on Eduta In	(2b.43			. 1
	294.10	304.40	- 0.70	4n- Fixed Cap	435.59			. 1
barr yee	622.30		- 9.20	49- Fixed inv	679.95			
come Acc		455 10	• 3.10	-de-Index Cap	211.79		· 1.79	
trure ACC	328.60	345.90	• <u>I.30</u>	-io- index inv	33004	348,02	• 3.02	
rectal Sits war	318.30	335.10	• 0,90	-do- Mingd Cap	6 6 5.96	721,97	• 3.78	
alv Tech Acc	88.50	198.50	- wia	-do-Mago inv	£10.70	£11,27	· 645 .	. 1
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			- 040		261.50	Z73.30		
Amer & Genri	457, 18	493,09	• 541	Prime Index-Link	165,00	194790	· 0.80	
cific Basin	144 63	4td 94	• 216	Primer Cash	219.90	ZN 50	• CL2D	. 1
ranan Growth	30.49	274.20	- 3.36	l		_		· l
pen Growth	182.45	192.06	- 306	CONFEDERAT	ION L	IFE		
r UK GUN FA	265.77		• 499	Lytten Way, Sky	cange,	Hers St	SI ZNN	- 1
तारी हथाए दियो	108.34	277.20	- 0.13	D) 435 744840	-			
operty Fund	419.51	441.59	• Œ41			1363,50	·16.40 .	- 1
red interest	3442	WLI 60	+ 481			ADD 1.50		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·								- 1

 		Bid	Otler	Wkly +/-	Y]d	Bid Offer +/- %
1	Bristol & West (2)		301.00	+ 0.10		HAMBRO ASSURED
-1	Equity Mgd \$1 Managed \$1 Adventurnat \$1	285,90 284,90 229,20	301.00 297.90 241.80	+ 2.10 + 2.10 • 0.40		Harbour House, Portvay, Presion, Lauca PRZ 2PR. 07772 840000 Managed 200.30 212.80 • LSO
}	Managed (2) Pension Funds	190.70	200.80	+ 1.40		-do-Pens 258.40 271.90 + 2.40 UK Equity 214.60 225.90 + 1.50
, 1	एको श्रीक्ष सिंह (त्रे अस्टाता हो) !	1 107,00 104,80		+ 0.20 • 0.10		-do-Pens 256.80 270.30 • 2.10
	Managed (2) : Equity Moned (2) :	112.00	:::	• 1.10		-do-Pens 93.50 203.60 + 0.10 Deposit 68.60 56.60 + 0.10
	Adventurous (2) L Bristol & West (2)	106.70	:::	+ 0.20 + 0.20		-dui- Pens 180.20 189.60 • 0.10
1	EAGLE STAR!	MIDLA	ND_	- 4-a		For Henderson see Scot Prov
١	60 St Mary Axe Eagle/Mid UIS	156.30	369.10	• 4.80	001	HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Reed, Croydon OEL 685 4385
	FRIENDS PR	OVIDE	NT Webs SI	PI 3SH		Security Fund 686.40 725.40 + 3.80 Referen Fund 681.20 720.90 + 8.30
İ	0(722 413366 Managed	369.70	389.20	• 200		international 641.90 682.50 + 1.40 Dollar Pund 554.80 587,10 + 5.30
	UK Equity Stewardship	907.30 447.20	534,00 470,80	+ 4.30 + 3.20	:::	Capital Fund 990.70 625.10 + 330
-	Overseas Equity North American	342.30 200.00	360.30 210.60	+ 170		Property Stries A 495.80 524.70 + 2.20 4.90 Property Units 823.20 864.40 + 3.70
1	Pacific Sesin European Procests	182,30 305,50	191.92 321.80 193.80	+ 1.80	1	Managed Ser A 653.00 691.10 + 2.60
1	Property Pixed Interest Index United	184.10 264.60 184.30	283.80 194.10	+ 2.30 + 1.60		High Tield Sund 750.60 794.30 + 4.80 Money Series A 310.50 328.60 + 0.20
	Cash FP Life Assurance	215.50	225.90	+ 0.20		Money Units 414.30 436.20 + 0.40 Boulty Pand 795.30 799.30 + 400
1	Phed Interest Managed	\$34° HO 90¢°00	637.80 867.40	+ 4.70	:::	Placed Interest 416.40 440.70 • 4.80 Indexed Sets 204.10 216.00 • 1.50
	Deposit Property	367,70 519,80	367.00 547.10	• 0.30 • 7.40	:::	European Fund 907.40 960.30 + 6.40 Natural Res 337.80 397.50 - 0.30
1	American Australian	545.70 648.50	574.40 682.60		1	Far East Pund 674.20 713.50 - 5.20 Smaller Cos 661.30 699.80 + 2.80 Special Sits 635.30 672.30 + 7.30
-	European Incomé Acc	739,60 899,80 502,40	7711.50 947.10 578.90	+ 3.00 • 4.00	···.	Man Currency 286.70 303.40 - 0.50
	-do-Dist International Japan Smaller	364.10 452.10	529.90 383.20 475.80	- 4.50		Nipapiese 1907 - 312 /0 250,40 - 4.40 US Smeller Cos 462 20 459.20 + 3.20 Pormerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd
J	Singapore à Mai Smaller Cos	428L JO 507.50	450.60 534.20	+ 240 + 290	::: I	Depast 260.20 280.30 + 0.60 Financial Ser) 61.40 60.10 - 0.60
1	Tokyo Pund UK Equby	647.90 697.40	682.00 734.10	-11.30 + 4.70	:::	Fixed Interest 366.40 385.80 • 2.20
١	CCM Varied Mg	898. 10	945.30	• 9,70		Managed 727.00 765.40 -10.60 Magd Growth 233.90 246.30 - 6.60 Magd Crom 248.20 261.40 - 7.70
١,	GT GLOBAL F Alban Gate, 14th	Fbr. 125	Lendon	.11) Wall, L	med	Property 363,90 383,10 +42,30
1	ECZY SAS. 01717 GT Plan Par Bass GT Plan Worlde	335.60 554.30	354.40 594.10	- 0.70 - 1.40	. <u> </u>	TSB American 297.10 312.50 + 4.80 TSB Brit Gwth 1085.90 1143.10 +11.30
ļ	GAN LIFE &	PENSIO	INS			TSB European 330.20 347,70 + 1.80 TSB Income 465.30 489.90 + 6.30
ļ	Gast House, Ha CM20 ZEW, 822	elov, Es Pazaza	965			- TSB Ind 495.80 522.00 - 0.30
1	Pursicilio Acc -do- Inv A	798.60 798.50	798.60 840.60	• 230 • 240	···	TSB Pacific 430.50 459.60 + 2.10 TSB Premi Inc 289.60 302.60 + 5.60
1	UK Equity Gilt Phis Managed	492.30 224.20 360.30	518.30 238.20 379.40	• 4.10 • 1.50 • 1.40	:::	IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE
1	GENERAL ACC	IDEN	·		- 1	krish Life Centre, Victoria Street, SI Albana, Herta ALI STF. 01727 48181
1	2 Rossgier St. Yo Managed	748.40 748.40 155.60	LHTR. 05 261.30 163.80	- 0.70	··· I	Global Maraged 664.00 720.00 • 7.40 Global Property 321.10 338.00 • 1,10 Global Fixed Int 578.80 609.30 • 8.90
-	Unfaired Profit UK Equity Flaced Ins	355.10 216.80	373,70 228,10	• 1,50 • 2,40	:::	Global Equity 747.00 786.30 • 7.70 Global Cish 224.50 241.60 • 0.10
1	Index-Unked Cash Deposit	181,00	/90.40 195.90	• 2.70 • 0.10]	
١	Property International	180.50 196.80	- 189.90 207.10	- 1.40 - 0.10	:::	LAURENTIAN LIFE Burgwood, Gloucester GLATEZ
1	American Japan	212.60 228.30 233.60	223.60 240.20 246.00	- 260 - 3.70	:::	01452.37157] Property 537.00 565.20 • 3.60 Managed 489.70 515.40 • 1.30
1	Japan Smilr Cos Gumpean Pacific Pund	2(8.90 3(8.90	24400 224.40 331.70		:::	Anterican 594.20 562.30 4 1.20 LIK Equity Pd. 551.00 579.90 + 3.00
İ	Conv Life Formerly Provides	N WAREN 125'30	1 1907 SQ	+ 1.20	:::	Japan 205.70 216.50 - 5.10 Index-Lini 200.10 210.60 • 1.50
1	Managed Ord Managed Initial	506.50 359.90	396,30 378,80	- 0.70	:::	High Yield 1011 1064 + 5,00 Money 432.00 454.70 + 0,30
1	Equity Ord Equity Init Hinked Ofk Ord	509.60 200.50	944.10 999.80 232.10		:::	Henderson active 29.40 252.50 • 0.60
١	I-Linked Gilt Inft Orces Equity Onl	146.30 441.30	154.00 464.50	• 200 • 020	:::	Growth Act 764.40 804.60 • 2.10 Gilt Edwed 477.70 902.80 • 5.70
1	Oseas Equity Into Property Ord	290.40 290.10	295.20 294.80	- 0.30 - 1.80	:::	European 173.20 182.30 + 0.60 Par East 229.10 241.10 - 160
1	Property Init Fixed Int Ord Fixed Inv Init	116-10 116-10	187.40 333.40	- 1.50 - 1.60	:::	}
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1	Regnel Exchange Ass Prup Red Managed Initial do-Acc Equity initial do-Acc Intil Initial do-Acc Property initial do-Acc Property initial do-Acc Index Acc Index Acc Deposit Initial Deposit Initial Deposit Initial Deposit Initial Deposit Initial Deposit Initial Deposit Initial Deposit Initial Deposit Initial Deposit Initial Deposit Initial Deposit Initial Deposit Initial Deposit Initial	Andos 863	EC3, 61	11 253 70 • 4.70		-del-ACS PR-50 287.30 -0.10 -0.50 -0
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١	HALIFAX LIFE PO Ben 25, Yes	י נסע א	07E 07F	H 611110	I	Parties Copies 1601 1610
1	Life Funds Foundation Saturced	30.32 30.43	31.92	• 0.25 • 0.17		2nd Mngd 3 Acc 543.20 571.80 • 2.40 2nd Mngd 3 Acc 543.20 571.80 • 2.40
ļ	Opportunity Deposit	31.48 25.33	33.14 25.66	• 0.25 • 0.17 • 0.25 • 0.02	:: l	2nd Deposts Acx 394.20 320.20 0.20 2nd Gift Acx 314.60 357.40 0 1.00
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	Par Provident Muttral see General Accident	SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	
1	PRUDENTIAL	6 St Andrews Square. Edinburgh EH2 ZYA 8(3) 556 9(6)	SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Besingstehe, Hants RG212DZ
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ĺ	Fixed interest 437.90 671.50 4.142 Property Fund 494.20 520.30 + 2.40	Property Fund 311.70 328.50 • 1.30 Equity Fund 1068.70 1137.00 - 1.20	Pers Pens Acct 1 2299.20 - 15.70 Pens Mingd Acct 1061.30 1117.20
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.	Earn Pand 347.70 386.10 + 0.50	High Income 898.10 955.50 + 9.50 Far East 606.90 645.70 - 10.50 North American 727.20 - 773.70 + 8.20	Pens Property 321.20 338.10
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.1	ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE	Extra income Pd 488.20 519.40 + 4.40	Pens indx-Unixi 213.90 zzs.10
١	Peterburough Busheest Pack, Peterburough PE24GG, 61733 390008	European 183.70 95.50 + 1.10	CINI SECTION
i	Mult Grow (45) 1 486.20	Secure Mgd 173.10 182.50 • 0.90	SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS997SL 1017 9026911
١	Op Prop \$15.50 \$4240 - 0.10 On Early: 127.80 1292.40 +15.10	Managed Dist 124.00 130.70 • 0.90 4.74	Managed Acc 1067.80 1124.10 • 9.90 Property Acc 380.50 400.60 • 6.20
ı	Op High Yield 604.10 754.30 - 7.10 Op Managed 964.30 101.190 - 6.20	UK Equity Rd 408.50 415.00 + 4.40 North America 467.40 497.30 + 6.40	Equity Acc 1814.50 1910.00 +23.80 Pixed Int Acc 462.30 486.70 + 5.30
1	Op Deposit 420.20 442.10 + 0.40 Japan Smir 246.40 259.30 = 2.80	Far East Fund 6 8.50 658 30 + 0.30 Global Manuscol 571.90 +08.50 + 4.50	Cash Acr 335.40 353.40 - 0.20 Amer Equity Acc 504.70 571.30 - 2.50
1	Managed Gris 140.90 398.80 + 1.20 Glis 90.20 94.90	Deposit Prind 244 Au 257.70 • 0.10	Japan Acc 388.90 x04.20 - 4.20 Pacific Acc 405.10 426.50 4 70
1	British 474.10 499.00 +14.70 Goldal Bond 129.30 136.00 + 2.39	Filtripean Fund 371.20 752.40 • 2.50 Filted Interest 65.90 70.10 • 0.50	Far Eastern Acc 882,90 929,40 • 2,50 Intermational Acc 864,90 721,00 • 2,40
1	Gold Share 89.70 94.40 - 0.10	COOTTON INTROVING	Distribution Femil 248.70 314.50 2.40 5.96 European 223.00 234.00 1.30
1	Inpan 409.10 430.60 - 3.20 11% Stair Cos 509.60 576.60 Magst Growth 541.20 617.80 + 9.00	SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EHIL SBR) 913 655 6009	Defind Dist 195 40 205,70 • 260 .
١	•	Int Pol 2 1295.60 1205.60 • 5.00 Int Pol 2 1293.20 1/50 90 • 4.50	TSB LIFE LTD
ł	ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool LIP 3HS	Inv Pol 3 . 1035 to 1049 70 . 180	Charlton Place, Andover, Hants, SPIB IRE 01244 345678 Managed Fund 339,90 357,80 • 1,20
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1	Pacific Sests 295.90 311.40 - 1 00 United States 342.50 381.30 + 2.80 GIR Fund 420.00 442.10 + 5.40	Cash Pand 245.40 258.50 • 0.20	WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Skropskire
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1	Sail hre Pund 84,40 94.10 + 0.40 2.34]	Managed Ace 461.70 485.90 +10.00	Fixed Interest 317.60 334.30 • 4.90 Property Fund 370.60 390 t0 • 1.30 Gresham Framiliagion
١	Deposit Pund (2) 405,40 427,10 • 0.40 4.01 GR Pand 549,30 62140 • 1.40 8.49	International Acr 186.00 406.90 - 1270 Property 235.30 247 60 • 0.20	Income 908.30 957.10 + 440
J	Global Equity Fd 28; 50 297,90 - 0.50 Property Pand (46) 120,10 127,10 + 0.20 7,94 AG Band Pand tai.50 170,90 - 0.40		International Gth 745.80 785.90 = 0.30
	SCOTTISH AMECABLE	STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Berez, Edizbergh EH2 ZKZ 013/25/252	Recurrery Fund ed-30 696,80 + 290 Japan & General 254,70 268,40 - 590
١	E0 St Vincent Street, Glasgow and 244, 2323	Cash 276.40 303.60 - 0.20	Portuerly AETrus Lafe Funds
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1	Indep-Limited 214.40 225.70 + 2.70 International 526.30 554.00 + 0.80		Owl 25.96 27.33 + 0.47 Bull 21.79 22.94 + 0.29 Sing 23.69 24.64 + 6.34
1	Cash 247.00 260.10 + 0.20	International 698.00 715.40 - 2.40 Managed 850.00 894.00 - 4.10	Gilf Edged 21.10 22.31 + 0.25 Deposis 15.63 17.72 • 0.04
·	Post Plane (Mr. 141 AN 151 20 at 210 at 1	Nih American 193.90 204.20 - 5.30	Pensions Squires 27.07 28.49 + 0.00
}	100% Saleguard 1	Cash 454.00 + 0.50 Equity 1950.00 2051.00 + 1340	Rear 13.31 35.06 + 0.69 Owl 36.92 38.86 + 0.62
ł	SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 21 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 IVF 6(3) 550 4(0)	Far East 145.80 151.50 - 780	State
.]	Cash 194,977 275 274 • 164	Index United US in MS III - 6.60	Deposit
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1	International 304-0 320-0 - 1.70 American 354-90 373-50 - 1.90 Japan 227.10 239-10 - 5.60	· (E)	N Amer Equity 571.18 390.72 - 1.54 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57
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١	SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS , 19 St Audrens Square, Estatorgh 2142 IYE	Equity Found 11 to 00 1195.80 + 150 Plant 1 to 120 P	Ferencety Crown Life Manage Acc 70: 50 741.30 • 1.40
1	033 225 7211 Property 228.00 240 10 + 0.90	industy Famil 11.500 199.80 +80.30 Final Integrate Fd 462.00 466.40 - 3.50 Final Integrate Fd 47.250 371.10 + 1.80 Final Integrate Fd 47.250 371.10 + 1.80 Final Integrate Fd 47.80 566.00 + 0.30 International Fd 76.90 (RIO.20 + 1.70 Final Integrate Fd 47.90 Final Integrate	Life Equity Acc 423.70 443.40 4.19
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998.00 - 2.90 ...

268.40 - 5.90 ...

Electioneering has moved offshore to Dublin where Sarah Jones says its roll-up will offer good returns

Offshore fund is capital idea

because you only pay income

tax on the difference between

the buying and selling price

of the shares. That works out

at considerably less tax than

you would have to pay on

interest earned from a build-

rate of tax) there is no

opportunity to utilise capital

The current annual yield of

the Murray Financials Bond

is 5.82 per cent. There is a 2

per cent initial charge and

annual management charges

gains allowances.

Here's a mortgage

so flexible

you don't even

have to tell

us your income.

ing society

The only

slight blip is

the sale of

shares is

taxed as in-

come (at the

investor's

marginal

account.

this compares well with the

popular corporate bond Peps

medium and long-dated cor-

porate bonds and may suffer

capital losses if interest rates

rise. But the main benefit of

the offshore fund is that it

the share price. As there is no

tax liability until shares are

sold, investors build up assets

untaxed and pay tax only

income from the fund, by selling some shares in the

It is possible to take an

to defer tax

liability. In-

come acc-

umulates or

with capital

gains, all of

which is re-

flected in

μp gross along

when it suits them.

rolls

which invest in more volatile

II can be a neat trick if you

want to invest in short-term

bonds and are happy to roll-

up offshore, says Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de

Broe, the independent finan-

cial adviser. "It suits someone

who wants to accumulate

capital offshore a few years

before retiring to another tax

haven like Jersey, or an

investor who wants income

within a balanced tax-eff-

It may concern potential investors that the product is not regulated by UK law.

Since the fund is registered in

Dublin, if anything should go

wrong investors would not be

protected by UK regulations.

However, Murray Johnstone

has a good long-term record

SARAH JONES

as an investment house.

icient portfolio."

E lectioneering has moved offshore. Murray John-

stone says that the claim that

its Dublin-based roll-up fund

will give better returns than the bank or building society

is "one election promise that

Richard Elion Lockhart.

director of retail marketing at

Murray Johnstone, says: "As

we approach the election peo-

pic are increasingly uncertain

about how their investments

will be treated by a new gov-

ernment. If you believe inc-

ome and capital gains taxes

will be increased, you might

well wish to ringlence part of your assets through using an

The Murray Financials

Bond Fund invests in short-

term gilts, which are consid-

ered less risky in a period of

fluctuating interest rates. The

fund manager claims that

offshore roll-up fund."

won't be broken".

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Time to end employee complacency over pensions

From Mr P. Sayers Anne Ashworth (Weekend eney. September 28) refers

to the catalyst of the Pensions Act in the move to money purchase provision. As the organisation which drew up the beige, pink and rust poster" mentioned in the arti-cle, the complexities and cost of the new legislation are all too apparent to us.

However, whether or not employers change the way they provide pensions, the main problem is indeed one of employee complacency. With

the State looking to cut back its expenditure and employers seriously questioning whether they wish to continue making open-ended promises, raising employees' awareness of the cost of an adequate pension and the need for greater personal responsibility will be vital if powerty in old age is to

fronically, switching to money purchase could stimulate this awareness. However, a big challenge awaits regulators, financial journalists and advisers.

The challenge is that of formulating simple processes through which the average employee can understand the implications of the investment risk being transferred from employer to employee through money purchase schemes.

Yours laithfully, PETER SAYERS. Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries. Godwins Limited. Briarcliff House. Kingsmead,

Company schemes 'only generous to a minority'

From Mr B.G. Rees Sir. Sara McConnell and Adam Jones's article on the pensions scandal (Weekend Money, September 21) is a fair statement of its origins and the slow progress of the industry-wide review of mis-sold

resions. However, the article repeats the often misleading assertion that members had opted out of generous company pension schemes"

Company pensions are invariably only generous to that minority of employees who

Australia offers

transfer solution

are fortunate to become longserving or the higher-paid. The majority of members those who leave for whatever indirectly, enrich directors reason before pensionable age who are low-paid, receive

far less generous treatment. Frozen company pensions expressed in transfer values very rarely reflect the accrued value of pension contributions made by employees, let alone any made by employers, sup-posedly on their behalf.

Much of the value of such contributions instead of going to such employees has ended up in pension surpluses utilised by employers to boost company performance and.

and shareholders. Company pension adminis-trators have shed a lot of crocodile tears over pensions mis-selling, as evidenced by some of the obstacles being put in the way of reinstatement. Yours faithfully,

BRIAN G. REES, Mid-Glamorgan.

From Mr B.D. Roden Sir, Mr P. Ward's lener (Weekend Money, September 28) illustrates a tale many of us know well. Bankers in this country wring their hands over the need to make these charges, but they are This past 12 months my

daughter in Australia has been repaying a loan and has remitted amounts from £300 up to a recent payment El,400. She draws a heque in pounds sterling on the State Bank of New South Wales, which has links with Citibank in London - the

me, nil. It may be a little slower than electronic banking. The most recent cheque was dated September 24, 1996, it was sent airmail and reached me yes-

Sir, There are two simple

answers to Mr Mendoza's

problem (Weekend Money let-

From Mr V. Wales

ters. September 28

cost to her is A\$6; the cost to

A hop, skip and a jump and it'll be in a Liney Bank. Costs less than a short London taxi fare,



terday, September 28. Of course, it will be another three or four days before the electronics catch up and the money is credited to me but full marks to State Bank for their charges, and to the mail

services for their delivery. Yours faithfully, BRIAN RODEN. Alexandra House Harrowden Road Wellingborough,

oblige. Yours faithfully. VIVIAN WALÉS,

The more useful is to move his bank account to First Direct. This bank will, at the cost of a locally charged phone call fless than the price of a stamp), pay his visa account by transfer four working days

ahead of the due date. First Direct will also pay telephone bills, utility charges and any other regular pay-ments. All that is required is to notify the amounts and the dates. They have done this for me for a long time without a

Less radical and, to my mind, of help limited to this one problem is to arrange for the visa account to be dated later in the month. If they decline to do this, then change to another visa supplier who .

Direct approach solves problems will. Most are willing to

> Green Street, Brockworth, Gloucester.

Currency overkill

From Ms M. Haskeil Sir, Instituting a single currency to reduce the punitive cost of cross border currency transfers (Weekend Money letters, September 28) seems like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut. It must be within the expertise of the Brussels bureaucracy to lay down a scale of reasonable charges with fines for transgression. I'd have thought this would have been one of the first outcomes of the single market. Yours faithfully. MARGARET HASKELL,

13 Park Vista,

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Impartial inefficiency

From Mr L. Rose Sir, Mr Shaun Coles asks in his letter of September 28 what would have happened if the made on his side, causing an underpayment.

I can reassure him the answer is very probably nothing. After 35 years in the Revenue (now retired). I can tell him that that department has always been completely impartial in its inefficiency. Yours sincerely,

L ROSE, I Chaisworth Road, High Lane, Stockport, Cheshire.

the Inland Revenue have been

The original refund given to too low, but the later one is too

Mr Coles states that his £2,000 AVC was credited as a gross contribution, in which case he already has the benefit of the basic rate of tax of 25 per cent being reclaimed by his pension

provider and added to his net

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Coming clean on currency charges

From Mr G. Edwards Sir. Your correspondent last week ("Punitive Cost of Money Transfers", Weekend Money, September 281 gives the clearest explanation yet of why a single European currency will bring lew benefits to travellers and business. His bankers have made nearly £60 from him for doing very little other than to use their computer links for a few micro fractions of a second.

With the huge profits to be made from cross-border travel and transactions ("never mind the currency, feel the distance, banks are not going to give up this type of income. As the disappearance of commission charges for currency exchange is one of the central planks of the argument for monetary union, the banks are being less than honest with the

Their own employees in the exchange sector of their busi-ness might also wish to know their true plans. Yours faithfully, GEORGE EDWARDS, 20 Fairways Drive. Harrogate.

Don't forget Eurocheques

From Mr W. Pugh Sir. I sympathise with your correspondent (Weekend Money, September 28) since I regularly transfer money to Germany. Living there for some time has made me very aware of the style of the German banking system in which Eurocheques play a big role alongside bank transfers.

The cheapest way to pay amounts to Germany is to send one or several Eurocheques - bearing in mind the limit of DM400 per cheque.

Companies and individuals all over mainland Europe are used to processing Eurocheques. There is also the added advantage of taking Eurocheques with you when travelling in Europe.

The typical cost for handling a DM400 Eurocheque is £3.95 - from my last statement. There is also a cost for the chequebook and an annual charge, but the total is well below the cost of a single transfer using traditional means. All British banks offer this service, although it is not publicised enough.

WYN PUGH. 11 Loader Close. King's Worthy. Winchester, Hants.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Inland Revenue was too generous in calculating refund for AVC

From Mr Vic Sephton

Sir, Shaun Coles (Weekend Money Letters, September 28) may regret writing to you as over-generous to him.

him on his additional voluntary contribution (AVC) was

contribution.

The additional tax relief he is due is the difference between the higher rate of tax of 40 per cent and the relief he has already been allowed of 25 per cent on the gross contribution of £2,000, i.e. £300.

As he has already received a refund of £130.40, the additional refund he should have received is £169.60, and not

Yours faithfully, VIC SEPHTON. 18 Nook Road, Scholes.

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you expect of our Personal Choice

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needs call us free now. Within five minutes we'll tell you if you have

even telling us your income. We also offer 85% and 100% mortgage schemes, including Fixed Rates as well as our Personal Choice

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THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 5 1996 **EQUITY PRICES** Shares in late surge to new high ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES 780% T 55 65 11 50 TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. 2005 2007 SUPPORT SERVICES PRINTING & PAPER BREWERIES, PUBS & REST LEISURE & HOTELS **BUILDING & CONSTRUCT** TELECOMMUNICATIONS 351's + 437's -144's 176's + 98 + 190 -276's -126 + 278's + 'It's fixed at confirms stockbroker. 20" 45 316 | 6" 15 20.7 | 19 20.7 | 19 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | 10 20.7 | Frequent Traders Club from ShareLink. £16.50 a trade. 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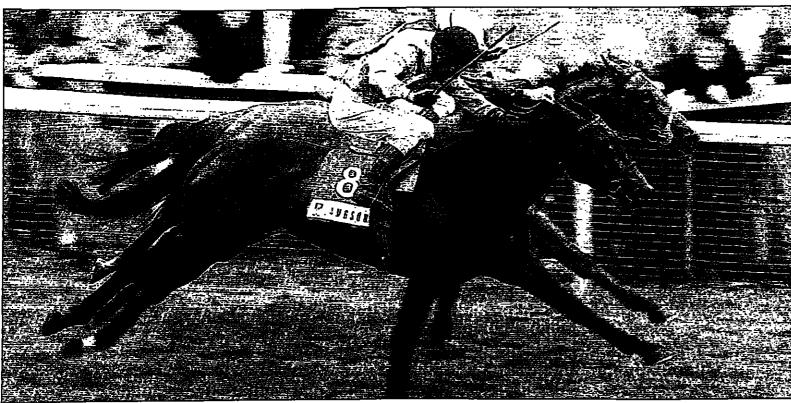
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Missile, nearside, heads the betting for the Tote Cambridgeshire, one of the season's most competitive handicaps, at Newmarket today

Kammtarra to carry on good work

By RICHARD EVANS RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE bookmakers' nightmare which began with Coastal Bluff in the Ladbroke (Ayr) Gold Cup two weeks ago and continued with Frankie Dettori's historic seven winners at Ascot last week can be completed this afternoon in the Tote Cambridgeshire at

Newmarket. Imagine a horse considered good enough in the spring to have entries for the Derby, the St James's Palace Stakes, the Eclipse Stakes and the King Edward VII Stakes, and who after two victories this term is let loose on his handicap debut nient handicap mark for this

with just nine stone — and is priced around II-I.

If that was not sufficient encouragement for backing Kammtarra, his breeding is out of the top draw - he is a half-brother to Lammtarra, last season's Derby, King George and Arc winner. For good measure, the form of his last race, in which he heat Ali-Royal at Doncaster, has worked out exceptionally well. The runner-up, unlucky not to win the Jersey Stakes at Royal Ascot, won a good conditions race at Bath last

Monday by 12 lengths. The reason for what appears to be Kammtarra's leafternoon's 40-runner charge down the Rowley Mile is simple. Despite showing sufficient ability on the Newmarket gallops in the spring to merit the host of group one entries, the Zilzal colt disappointed in his first two races. when he pulled too hard and refused to settle.

The Godolphin representative had his sights lowered and duly opened his account in a Windsor maiden when making all the running to win by nine lengths. However, the key to his chance today stems from his more relaxed racing style, which saw him settle off the pace at Doncaster before bursting clear.

With a strong pace guaranteed today, Kammtarra should be in his element, especially as there ought to be plenty of pace among horses drawn near him towards the stands rail. Given the nature of this

nine-furlong race, there is no shortage of fancied horses and my short-list includes Clifton Fox and Almond Rock (both would appreciate any overnight rain), Angus-G, Sharpical, and, above all, Crown Court, who has been laid out for this race. However, Kammtarra looks a smashing bet.

Away from the gaze of the television carneras, a combi-

nation of large fields and soft ground makes the Haydock card far from friendly, although the two maiden races hold some appeal. Queen's Pageant (1.40) has run well behind Moonshine Girl at Sandown and Tycoon Todd at York on her two starts. Being by the soft ground loving Risk Me, she should relish the conditions underfoot and can

open her account. Listed Account (5.00) can step up on a sympathetic introduction at Sandown 18 days ago when she lost several lengths at the start before finishing to good effect. Luca Cumani has his string in particularly good form.

Progressive Eva Luna can remain unbeaten

NEWMARKET CHANNEL4

2.55: Miss Tahiti has solid form claims on her second to Sil Sila in the French Oaks and close fourth to My Emma in the Prix Vermeille last month. However, she may be at her best on easier ground and is stepping back in trip. Last Second. best when fresh, has an obvious chance on her Coronation Stakes second and Nassau Stakes victory, but her stable is not in top form. Distant Oasis has improved with every run, despite winning only once, and will almost certainly improve over today's longer trip.

3.35: see left.

4.10: Much as I would love to see Further Flight win this race for a sixth time, it has been a struggle for Barry Hills to get his popular veteran ready and others make more appeal. Celeric is a favourite of mine but he may just have had enough for this season after chasing home Double Trigger in the Doncaster Cup. The unbeaten Eva Luna has the most scope for improvement, having raced only three times, and Henry Cecil's progres-sive filly impressed when winning the Park Hill

4.45: The betting market is likely to be more use than the form book in finding the winner here, given the number of newcomers. Polish Romance and Blueygreen are interesting but the racecourse experience of Elegant Warning tips the scales in her favour.

BBCI

ON TELEVISION

CHEPSTOW **BBCi**

2.15: Iffeee beat Certain Angle at Worcester a week ago and is capable of confirming the form on 6lb worse terms. However, Tartan Tradewinds could be called the winner some way out at Worcester three weeks ago and can defy top weight.

2.50: Yubralee improved when second to Prizefighter at Huntingdon after a threemonth break and can cope with this step up in class. Faustino appears best on right-handed courses, while Hand Woven could appreciate further.

3.25: Call Equiname was the best of these over hurdles but there is nothing like experience over fences in novice chases at this time of year and Sonic Star gets the vote to improve on a quick treble.

RICHARD EVANS

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: KAMMTARRA (3.35 Newmarket) Next best: Queen's Pageant (1.40 Haydock Park)

2.00: André Fabre runs the listed winners Otaiti and Vadsa Honor but Binary, his third representative, looks the pick after a narrow defeat over ten furlongs last time. She will appreciate this longer trip. Zafzala's staying-on second in the Prix Vermeille (later demoted for interference) represents solid form. She has Haramayda to set the pace, but that will play into Camporese's hands. She has been crying out for a decent gallop on soft ground.

3.10: Double Trigger folded tamely in this contest 12 months ago, when Always Earnest and Moonax disputed the finish on testing ground. With similar condinions expected, he and Moonax are worth opposing. Always Aloof had kassani and Nononito behind when triumphing here over an extended 15 furlongs but a chance is taken on Camp David. Germany's top stayer had Grey Shot more than seven lengths in arreas when scoring at Baden-Baden in

3.45: The sub-standard turnout lends encouragement to the belief that Flemensfirth can defy a lengthy absence. He landed this event 12 months ago and can take advantage of his favoured surface. Manzoni, a recent French import from Germany, looks the danger despite a below-par per-formance last time. Martiniquais has prospects if returning to his best.

JULIAN MUSCAT '

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER

1.50 Sarayir 2.20 RICASSO (nap) 2.55 Flame Valley

3.35 North Song 4.10 Eva Luna 4.45 Polish Romance 5.20 Northern Judge

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.35 GAME PLOY. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.35 Missile. 4.10 EVA LUNA (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.50 OH SO SHARP STAKES

(Listed race, 2-Y-O fillies: £9,279; 7f) (8 runners) D1 ATTITRE 11 (F) (R Photogr) C Britain 8-9...
10 CAERFLLY DANCER 21 (F) (Ferrary Ltd) R Alestuars 8-9.
20311 DANCERS DROP 30 (F) M Surfail R Hannon 8-9...
11022 FERNANDA 41 (B.F.G) (Sulfan A Robert) J Dunlop 8-9...
25102

1995: RUZNAMA 8-9 W Carson (11-8 lav) B Hills 6 ran 2.20 NGK SPARK PLUGS PERFORMANCE NURSERY HANDICAP

			7
201	(8)	154	COWRE 16 (F) (Lady Rothschild) R Johnson Houghton 9-7 T Sprake
202	(12)		THE GAY FOX 19 (BF) (6 Windaker) B MicMahon 9-2 R Cochrane
.03	(10)	535250	DALMENY DANCER 23 (B,D,G) (Thurlos Tirreds) 8 Meetran 8-13 M Tebbutt
204	(6)	515514	BURLINGTON HOUSE 22 (D.G) (R Green) P Cole 8-13. G Faultmer (5)
205	(5)		SERENTY 61 (DJF) (C Wilk) J Fanstrave 8-11 D-Harrison
.06	{ 11	02011	SHARP HAT 21 (D.F.G) (J Smitn) R Hannon 8-10 Pat Eddery
.07	(15)	350153	LAMORNA 14 (D.F.G) (W Ponsorby) M Channon B-9 A Eddary (7)
208	(4)	0101	STYGIAN 12 (D,F) (N. Abdulta) B Helis 8-8
.09	(3)	6041	A BREEZE 48 (F) (Bloomsbury Stud) D Monts 8-8 N Day
210	(14)	522100	KAISER KACHE 23 (V,D,F)(P Barclay) K McAuella 8-8 B Doyle
211	(9)	03021	SAINT WHO 25 (D.F)(Times Of Wigan) W O'Soman 8-6 Emma O'Gorman
212	(13)	112033	LUCKY CANWOOD 18 (G) (Sporting Quest) M Bell 8-5 R Mullen (7)
.13	(1)	52130	MYSTIC CIRCLE 24 (B.D.F) (P Femilial) J Wasts 8-3 L Charmock
214	(7)	63324	MARSAD 40 (Harndan A) Maldourn) C Benstead 8-3, R Hills
215	(2)	2330	RICASSO 42 (BF) (Sheuth Mohammed) D Loder 8-1,
16	(16)		HOMESTEAD 15 (6 Greenwood) R Hannon 7-12 J Quinn
DETE	NC 6 1	Chara Mai	E. I. Charrer 7 I Direfferton Marrie B 4 C. L. 188. 46 4 The Co. Con. 19 1 others

2.55 SUN CHARIOT STAKES (Group II: fillies and mares: £34,561: 1m 2f) (9 runners)

1995: KING OF PERU 9-3 J Tate (9-1) A Janvis 16 ran

BETTING: 5-2 Last Second 4-1 Miss Tahrit, 5-1 Sport, 6-1 Figure Valley, 7-1 Distant, Oasts, 8-1 Bint Salsatul, 10-1 Wandering Star 12-1 other: 1995: WARNING SHADOWS 3-8-B k Darley (6-1) C Britain 7 ran FORM FOCUS

SPOUT beat Phantom Gold 341 in group 81 (ancasme Oaks at Haydock (1m 41, good) CAST SEC-OND beat Papering 21 in group 8 Massau Sales at Goodwood (1m 2, good) is firm; DISTANT OASS Val 48t of 8 for Berloop IC Caster in group 8 Neeton Park Stakes at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) FLAME VALLEY beat Battipiks and BERENI.

9	25		CAMBRIDGESHIRE HANDICAP	
J.	JJ	TOTE	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HANDICAP C4	
165	5753	1m 1h	(40 runners)	
•	J,L4J.		(
401	(4)	210107	YEAST 2 (F.S) (B Haggas) W Haggas 4-10-1 (5m) K Fallon TARAWA 21 (C.F.S) (Mr.: J Callagram) N Callagram 4-9-7 M Roberts PRINTE OF MY HEART 22 (6) (G Hoiss B Hais 3-9-2 J D Smith (3)	87
402	(34)	114060	TARAWA 21 (C.F.S) (Mr.: J Callaghan) N Callauten 4-9-7 M Roberts	83
403	17)	213043	PRINCE OF MY HEART 22 (G) (G Hooks) B Hills 3-9-2 J.D Smith (3)	81
404	(26)			
405	(12)	23131	KAMMTARA 22 (F) (S.A. Maldoum) 5 the Surror 3-9-1 R, Hills MBSSE 30 (C.F.) Li Boylet W. Happes 3-9-0 F L, yeach (3)	98
406	(211	1-10123	MBSSELE 30 (C.F) (J Bogte) W Happas 3-9-0 F (wach (3)	92
407	(40)	235520	CLAR BEN 14 (B.C.B.F.F.S) (A Durden) H Cecil 4-8-13 W Ryam MOMENTS OF FORTUNE 9 (F.G) IA AN B Handary 48-12 M Tebbus NAYVET 7 (F.G.S) (J. Richmond-History) G Harmond 7-8-12 A Clark MACHAETRAS (J. G.E.S.) (G.E.M. C. Comp. 6 Dec. 10 Harmond 7-8-12 A Clark	88
408	(18)	400300	MOMENTS OF FORTUNE 9 (F.G) (A ANI B Hanbury 4-8-12 M Tebburg	91
409		024102	KAYVEE 7 (F.G.S) (J Richmond-Watson) G Harwood 7-8-12 A Clark	94
410	(5)	(335502	NAGNAGNAG 11 (F.G.S) (C Freud) S Dow 4-8-11 R Hughes	92
411	(36)	31-2215	NAGNAGNAG 11 (F.E.S) (C Figod) S Don 4-8-11 R Haghes ALMOND ROCK 20 (E.S) (CT Roong) J Fanshare 4-8-11 D Harrison	97
412	(39)			
413	(30)	112323	NORTH SONG 22 (D.BF.F.S) (J Gosden) J Gosden 3-8-7. B Donés	93
414	(23)	206003	NORTH SONG 22 (D.S.F.S.) LI GOSION J GOSION R FRANCO 4-8-9 Dame O'Neal BILLY BUSHWACKER 21 (B.F.G.S.) (T.CHID) Mrs. M Reveley 5-8-5 A Coltano	96
415	(9)	056006	TENTIAM 15 (F) (V Smoot) M Ware 4-8	91
416	(26)	144550	STAR MANAGER 24 (G,S) (M Arbb) P Cole 6-8-3 T Quanti	88
417	അ	511033	DOUBLE BLUFF 24 (O.F.) (1 Smith) Balding 3-8-3 Martin Driver (S)	87
418	(2)	500.0	VINVARI VUUN 1 194 IU.UII ILUIR (JE 13 MPAR) 1 Gamest 2 8_7 - Det Calens.	90
419	(1.7)	-W6-001	CLERCHE HIX 27 III F G S) /P and S Partners Cleans a G S (Case M Partners	95
420	(29)	4-330434	LICHNOC PROPERCY 24 IPT (MCROTION FORCE) 2 United 2 Q 1 C. C. C. C.	88
421	(3)	BUUT 1U	SKY LIUME: 5 (C.F. G) (MESS I) Mercon) LI Tomotone 1.0.1 to bloom PD	89
-22	(38)	434010	CONSPICUOUS 22 (0.5.G) (Mr. J Hopkins) L Cotte 6-8-1 T Sprator	91
4.3	(5)	251258	CONSPICUOUS 22 (D.F.G) (Mr.: J Hopkins) L Cetter 6-8-1 T Sprakes MASTER CHARTER 21 (C.F.G) (J Ramsden Mr.: J Ramsden 48-0 J Take	90
424	(101	0-21156	SECRET SPRING 15 (G) (M George) P Hedger 4-8-Q A McGione. GAME PLOY 14 (F.G) (X kyraston) D Haydn Jones 4-8-D (Ser) R Cochrane	90
425	(35)	113021	GAME PLUY 14 (F,G) (X Nyraston) D Haydn Jones 4-8-0 (5er) R Cochrane	æ
436	(3.7	0340-00	SHOW FATTH 165 (C.C.S.) (1 Wight) R Hamon 6-7-13 D Bogs NMG ATHELSTAN 14 (V.F.) (1 Gaise) B McMahon 8-7-12 A McCardiny (7) GIVE 84E A RRMS 15 (D.F.G.) (6 Reed) C Thornton 3-7-11 N Cardisle	85
427	(8)	/04000	NING A MELSTAR 14 (V.F) (1 Guise) B McMahon 8-7-12 A McCarthy (7)	91
428	(25)	421113	GIVE ARE A MARIE 15 (U.F.G) IG Reed) C Thornion 3-7-11 R Carlisle	97
429	(24)	122111	SILVER GROOM 42 (F.5) (Silver Durling) R Alichurst 8-7-11 D R McCabe	91
430 431	(14)	077177	SHARPICAL 35 (D.BF.F.G) (A Rext) M Prescoa 4-7-11. G Doffield FARRYWINGS 15 (F) (L Sygworth) Mrs J Ramsden 3-7-10 N Adams	96
432	(13)	(U) 123	ANCIE C 31 (C D AV Comp No M Comp A 2 10	91
	(16)	140700	ANGUS-6 21 (C.F.) (W Grozel) Mrs M Reveloy 4-7-10	97
433 434	(37)	112202	PANAMENT MILL 15 (C.F.O.) IN ANGENOUS MES A NUMBER 3-1-10 C CREMOCK	94
435	(27)	054030	SUF'S RETURN 6 (F.S) (A Morton) A Jarvis 4-7-10 . D Wright (3) NORDINEX 28 (C.F.G) (R Arculii) R Armstrong 4-7-10 . A Eddery (7)	94
435	(11)	071014	AUTUMN COVER 5 (0.F) (6 Alexander) P Hedger 4-7-10 (5cs) C Adexison (5)	85
437	(15)		ANOTHER TIME 23 (F,G) (D Sullivan) S Woods 4-7-10 (33) L Adamson (3)	69 90
438	(19)	025820	SOLD AMUSEMENT 47 (B.F.G) (Ars A Bell) W Commigham 6-7-10 A Daty (5)	85
439	(31)	OUSCOU!	BLAZE OF SONG 8 (V.G.S) (O Boocock) R Harmon 4-7-10 R Ffrench (7)	82
440	(20)	**************************************	MRGEL'S LAD 21 (C,D,F,G) (N Duntungton) P Hastam 4-7-10 R Mollen (7)	94 85
			os 7-9. Andres-G 7-7. Hawkslev Hill 7-7. Sue's Return 7-7. Nordines 7-6. Arturan (
100	1001	r rainwin	us (-7, Purusanu (-1, Mandrair) filir (-1, Sus 5 Naturi (-1, Noctaria) (-6, Adducan L	aws.

Long handleap: Farvetings 7-9, Angus-G 7-7, Hawtsley Hill 7-7, Sue's Return 7-7, Nordines 7-6: Another Time 7-4: Bold Amusement 7-3: Blaze OJ Song 7-3, Nagel's Lad 7-3 BETTING: 6-1 Missde, 8-4 Game Ploy. 10-1 Yeast, Crown Court. 12-1 Angus-G. kammarra. 14-1 Master Charter 16-1 Shamucal, Clifton Fox, 20-1 others 1995: CAP JULIUCA 3-9-10 R Hoghes (11-1) R Charmon 39 ran

FORM FOCUS

YEAST best Restructure 7 kil in 9-numer Insted race here (1m, good to firm). KAMMITARRA best All-Royal 1 kil in 9-numer race at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). MSSUE 3 kil 3 do 0 9 to Even Top in Issted race at York (1m 11, good) KAYVEE 3 kil 2nd ol 35 to Deopated Hern in Isandicap at Associ (71, good to firm) CROWN COURT best Emily-Mou 51 in 19-numer handicap here (1m, good) with NORDINEX (21th better of) 1 kil 5 kin CLIFTON FOX best ANGUS-G (4th better off) neck in 17-numer handicap at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yds, good

lo firm) with BILLY BUSHWACKER (3lb bester off) 121 3rd and NIGEL'S LAD (2lb worse off) 133/4 168h. GAME PLOY beat Inquisitor 31 in 17-namer handscap at Newbury (1m 3, good to Imm) with CLAN BEN (2lb bester off) 10r 8th and KING ATTELSTAN (2lb bester off) 10r 8th and KING ATTELSTAN (2lb bester off) 110r 8th and KING ATTELSTAN (2lb bester off) 10r 8th and KING ATTELSTAN (3lb bester off) 10r 20r 4 18 14h. HAWKSLEY HILL 31 2nd of 18 to Prode 0f Pendle in 18-namer handscap at Ayr (1m, good to firm) with GIVE ME A RING (3lb bester off) neck 3rd and TERTILIM (3th bester off) 41 8th.

Selection: GAME PLOY

4.10 JOCKEY CLUB CUP (Group III: £20,580: 2m) (8 runners)

(3) 210-163 RATCHER FLIGHT 97 (CD.F.G.5) (S Wingfield Digby) B Hills: 10-9-3 ... M Hills 90 (S) 45-4104 ADMIRAL'S WELL 23 (D.F.S.) (A Spencel R Alechust 6-9-0 ... T Outen 94 (H) 121112 CBLERRC 23 (D.F.S.) (C Spencel O Morley 4-9-0 ... R Hills 96 (77) 111 EVA LUNA 24 (F.G.) (K Abdulla H Gerd 4-9-0 ... R Hills 96 (8) 254365 OLD ROUVEL 23 (D.F.G.) (Mr. R Coverl) O Murray Smith 5-9-0 ... 6 Duffield 90 (6) 3/32-603 POLTARF 8 (C.F.S.) (Shelish Mohammed) J Gooden 5-9-0 ... 6 Duffield 90 (6) 3/32-603 POLTARF 8 (C.F.S.) (Shelish Mohammed) J Gooden 5-9-0 ... 6 Hind (9) (7) 4 1-56-5 Casanas Annual For Each 25 Casanas A 4-18543 SAMMARTONO 46 (C.F.S) (K. Abdusta) B Hills 4-9-0 11313 PERSIAN PUNCH 65 (C,BF,F,G) (J Smith) D Bevorth 3-8-3.... R Cochrane 93 BETTING 2-1 Fire Lune, 11-4 Celenic, 5-1 Further Flight, 13-2 Person Punch, 8-1 Polizir, 12-1 Admiral's Well, 14-1 others

1995; FURTHER RUGHT 9-9-3 M Hills (5-2 tw) 8 Hills 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

FURTHER FLIGHT, winner of this race for last five years, 544 3rd of 4 to Corradini in a conditioner race at Dorsasker (I'm 61 132yd, good) to firm) ADMI-RAL'S WELL beat Speed for Lead 294 in 10-numer conditioner race at Royal Accent (2m 61, good to firm) with OLD ROUVEL head 3rd CELERIC 21 2nd of 6 to Double Trigger in the group it East Coast Dorsaster Cup at Dorsaster (2m 21, good to firm) with ADMIRAL'S WELL 4. 4th and dLD ROUVEL 4. 5th. Previously best Always Aloot 21 in 7-numer.

4.45 ALINGTON MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES

•			
601	(14)	BLUEYGREEK (Bloomsbury Stud) P Chappie-Hyam 8-11	_
603	(3)	23 ELEGANT WARNING 50 (BF) (P Elson) B Hills 8-11	是
603	(10)	5 ETAIA 64 (Lord Hartington) L Current 8-11 D Liebina 8	ū
604	(n)	JAMRAT SAMYA (A Al Maksoum) L Current 8-11 R Firench (7)	_
605	(2)	JOVIAN (Mathers Racing) R Guest 8-11	_
606	(9)	KBLSHANNY (Shefith Mohammed) L Cumari 8-11 D R McCabe	-
607	(4)	LADY DIESIS (P Williams) B Holis B-11 J () Smith (3)	_
608	(13)	6 LOCHLASS 28 (M Johnson) 5 Woods 8-11 D Biggs	_
609	(5)	MESHHED (Hamdan Al Makkoum) B Hambury 8-11	-
610	(8)	4 NOBLE STORY 47 (Fairy Story Partners) R Abeliums 8-11	И
611	(12)	OC PERFECT AMGEL 17 (J Slis) M Tomplers 8-11 M Henry (3)	_
612	(T)	POLISH ROMANCE (Cheveley Park Stud) M. Stoste 8-11 K. Felion	_
613	(6)	RAAHA (Hamdan Al Maksoum) R Armstrong 8-17 M Roberts	-
614	(11)	TAJREBAH (Hamdan & Maltaum) P Walnyn 8-11 Pat Eddery	_

BETTING: 4-1 Poksh Romanca, 9-2 Bagant Warning, 6-1 Blueygreen, 8-1 Bros. Januar Sarnya, 9-1 Lady Diess 1995; POLISH SPRING B-11 M Hills (B-1) 8 Hills 17 ran

BLIEVERREEN (Italied Apr 22) Half-sizter by Green
Desert to useful fro," fro 27 winner Sail Lake, dam
rustligle sprort winner. ELEGANT WARNING 44
and neck 3rd of 19 to Catestriam in madden at
Newbury [6], good of ETNA about 41:41 Sin of 5 to
Carefully Dencer in madden at Ascot (6), good to
firm), JOVANN (Mar 1) Sciect by Petanop to three
winners including smart 67 /7 winner Petanda
dam 1m winner in Franze LADY DIESIS (Apr 20)
Half-sizer by Desce to useful firm entiner So Sedufous, dam juvenile 51-1m winner in Iretand and later

5.20 LINKS HANDICAP

1	(14)	410560	MY GALLERY 7 (D.F.G.S.) (R Cox) A Badey 5-9-13 D Wright (3)	96
2	(15)	035230	LUCKY ARCHER 11 (W Gredley) C Britain 3-9-8 . M Roberts	93
3	(16)	535004	KNOBBLEENEEZE 15 (V.D.F.G.S) (A Andrews) M Channon 6-9-4 A Eddery (7)	92
4	(11)	2-415	KERRY RING 9 (D.BF.S) (Shekin Moltammed) J Gasden 3-9-3 G Hind	93
5			HIGH HOPE HENRY 16 (D.G.S) (Lucinan Styd) R Aletury 3-9-2 T Culpin	92
6	(3)		BROUGHTONS TURMON 6 (CO.F) (Broughton) W Maccon 7-8-13 Par Eddery	94
7	191		STATOYOPK 9 (D.F) (5 Cohn) B Helts 3-8-12 J D Smath (3)	96
В	(13)	143520	WILD PALM 15 (V,CO.F,G,S) (S Firsiol) W O'Gorman 4-8-12 Emina O'Gorman	96
9	(10)		THYAAB 14 (B,F) (J Blythe) F Watson 4-8-10 . K Fallon	97
Ö	(8)	325441	DUELLO 15 (D.F.S) (H Promotions) M Blanchard 5-8-9 J Quinn	92
ī	(7)		ALMASS 21 (F.G) (Equeros Partiers) C Wall 4-8-9 . P Clarke (7)	96
ż	(6)		OGCI 21 (BF.F.G) (Skyline Racing) P Makin 5-8-6 D Harrison	98
3	(12)		DON PEPE 17 (D.F.G.) (Mrs E Auril) R Boss 5-8-2 B Doyle	96
4	{4}	050114	SPEEDY CLASSIC 11 (D.F.G) (M Dames) M Healon-Elfs 7-7-13 N Carliste	84
5	(f)	403122	DON'T GET CAUGHT 11 (D.BF.F) (Mrs. P. McGrath) J L. Harrs. 4-7-10 -	93
5	(2)	006261	NORTHERN JUDGE 42 (CD,G) (B Hambury) B Hambury 3-7-10 Martin Dwyer (5)	•
g			et Caustil 7-8 Northern Judge 7-7	

BETTING: 6-1 Ogp. 7-7 Duello 8-7 Don't Get Caught, 9-1 Thursab 10-1 xerry Avrg. 12-1 Northern Judge. 14-1 Dan Pape. 16-1 others

1995, SAMAH 5-8-17 C Nakatani (11-1) O Nicholis 30 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS							
TRAINERS	₩æ	Ross	8	JOCKEYS	Watners	Rides.	•
A Fabre	8	32	364	Pad Eddery	120	534 78	22.5 15.4
H Cech	53	22 285	239	D R McCabe	12	76	154
S ban Sumpor	7	34	206	L Charnock	3	20 27	150
R Charlton	20	101	196	J D Smath	4	27	14 B
D Loder	20	13	195	T Sprake	5	36 72	139
P Wateryn	13	86	151	Dame O North	9	72	125
J Watts	È	40	15 D	R Hills	31	365 366	117
J Gosden	55	37B	146	T Curron	39	366	107

Busy Flight continues run

BUSY FLIGHT, an exciting prospect for next year, completed a hat-trick at Newmarket yesterday. The Barry Hills-trained colt saw off three rivals with the minimum of fuss in the Racing Post Godolphin Stakes. Busy Flight, a close relative of Further Flight, stays in training and will be competing in the top races at around a mile and a half. In the Somerville Tattersalls Stakes on the same card. Grapeshot emerged as a classic prospect with a comioriable success.

CHEPSTOW

1.45 Saxon Mead

THUNDERER 3.25 Sonic Star 4.00 Dajraan 4.35 Ramsdens

GOING: GOOD

2.15 Grange Brake

2.50 Mim-Lou-And

1.45 STARTERS NOVICES HURDLE

1 10. 6.17	rojuj (14 immorij
500340-	ALLOW 212 (Mrs M Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 5-10-12
R-6	CROWNERLL CROSS 24 (F Bown) 8 Millsman 5-10-12 D Salter (5) -
	HIGH HOLME 341F (Mrs R Hasiens) R Buckler 5-10-12
PP/	PREPRESSIBLE 17F (R Callow) R Hodoes 5-10-12 Lawrence -
045-	JALAPENO 152 (A Parker) N Todston-Davies 5-10-12 C Liewallyn
2030-	LAKE KARIBA 191 (The Lake Kariba Partnership) P Michaels 5-10-12 A P MicCoy @
	LATE ENCOUNTER 6 (V Kang) B Liewellyn 5-10-12
	LOUGH TULLY 511 (R Hancocks) F Jordan 6-18-12
40/2-4	MY HARVINSKI 24 (G) (I Jones) Jones 6-10-12 Miss E J Jones (7) 52
	RANGITIKE 161 (G) (Mrs J Mayo) C Mann 5-10-12
.—-	SAXON MEAD (H Catherwood) P Hobbs 6-10-12
52P3P-0	WHISTLING BUCK 119 (S) (M Sartoson) R Rome 8-10-12 L Aspell (5) 65
0	MASEMARA MUSIC 23 (R Balley) J Bradley 5-10-7 B Fenton -
3	PYTCHLEY DAWN 38 (Mrs. L. O Next) 0 0 Next 6-10-7 V Stationy 50
•	

1995; CALL EQUINAME 5-11-0 A P McCoy (11-8 lax) P Necholls 14 ran

2.15 MERCEDES BENZ HANDICAP CHASE

(£7,103: 3m) (8 runners) SS. Seri (C. TOMERSE 21 (D.F.G.S) (Machemon Mills) & Richards 9-12-0 A Dobbin SS 11-48-1 RFEEE 7 (F.G.S) (T Morris) P Bowen 9-11-13 A Margaire 95 191830- GRANNES BRANCE 213 (CD.F.G.S) (Mac J. Moud) N Twiston-Davies 10-11-3 D Walsh (3) 97 (1) F111- SEREAL CRACK 141 (D.F.G.S) (Laughbey and P Barber) P-Mochols 7-11-4 A P McCoy 92 21-1153 EVANCE I.CA 40 (8F.F.S) (Marsh Pipe Richar) Cabb) M Pipe 6-10-13 C Maurile 91 27-11-13 CENTAIN ANGLE 7 (D.8F.F.G.S) (Pytom Syndicate) P Hobbs 7-10-9 R Durwondy 91 1120P GOOD FOR A LAUGH 175 (G.S. 10 Walsh) & Hom 12-10-8 M A PRogram — 117-70P ROBBA SKY 182 (S) (Uplands Bootspools) C Brooks 9-10-7 G Bradley 95 (C. 3.1 Temper 10-1 A Comment of A 1 Marsh 1 A Marsh 1 A Findely 95 BETTING, 3-1 Tartan Tradeyands, 7-2 General Crack, 9-2 Nese, Cartain Angle, 6-1 Grange Brake, 7-1 Evangelica, 12-1 others

1995: STRAIGHT TAUK 8-10-3 A P McCoy (9-2) P Nicholis 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

TARTAN TRADEWINDS beal Maggirts Green 61 in 4-uniner handlage chase at Worcester (2m 71, good to firm). IFFEE beat New To Think 51 in 5-uniner handlage chase at Worcester (2m 71, good to firm) with CERTAN ANGLE 913 ad GRANGE BRANCE BRANCE SHALE of 15 to Kilberth in handlage chase at Utiosser (4m 2, good to soft) on peautismate start. GENERAL GRANGE with 15 and 15 to Kilberth in handlage chase at Utiosser (4m 2, good to soft) on peautismate start. GENERAL GRANGE with 15 and 15 to Spree Cross in handlage chase at Statland (3m, good to Selection: TARTAN TRADEWINDS

2.50 FREE HANDICAP HURDLE (4-Y-0: £6,947: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

Long handicap: Love The Blues 9-12. Rising Dough 9-12.

BETTONG: 7-2 Mont-Lou-And, 4-1 Cur Kris. 6-1 Alkume Dancer, 7-1 Maseb, 8-1 Hand Woven, 10-1 Fections Rising Daugh. 12-7 others 1995: ROMANCER 11-5 (Llewellyn (6-1) N Twiston-Davies 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

OUR KPBS 61 2nd of 17 to Zabada in Grade II Granhest 4-y-o Nounce Hundle at Advires (2m 110vdc, pood) ALL TBBE DANCER 11794 4th of 5 to Elpidoc, in novice handlesp hurdle at Art (2m, good to soft). HAND WOVEN beat Assanta 3%1 in 10-numer newton hundle at Newton Abbot (2m 51, good to limm). HAND TON SULV best recent ellort 41 2nd of 13 to Tamock in novice hundle at Chepstone (2m 110yds, 2m); FALISTROV beat La Memogunia 5 in 3-runner handlesp hundle at Hereford (2m 31 110yds, good	to farm). REAGAMESQUE beat Keen To The Lest 61 in 13-tunner novice hardle at Doucaster (2m 41, good) on perulament start. MMM-LOU-AND bear Red Light 51 in 8-tunner novice hundle at Worcesier (2m, good) with HAMELTON SILK (5th worse off) 31 and YUBRALEE 71 and of 6 to Presington of headings hundle at Huntingdon (2m 110)45, from LOVE THE BILUES best elect 11541 and of 14 to Debutante Days in novice hundle at Utionater (2m, good) Selection: LOVE THE BILUES
3.25 MARYLAND FARMHOUSE CH (E7,103: 2m 3l 110yd) (5 runners)) Niichpison 7-11-8 A Maguine 📵

1995: LINDEN'S LOTTO 6-12-4 A Maguera (6-4 tar) J White 5 ran FORM FOCUS

SONEC STAR best Mill Of the Ross 291 in 4-noner novice chase at Bangar (2m 4 110/pts, good) BLL OF RIGHTS 64 7h of 12 to Fainker Frenzi in tharder chase at Heederd (2m 31, good to firm) CALL ECRUPAME best Peace Lord 201 in 12- Selection: SONEC STAR 4.00 SOUTH-WEST RACING CLUB NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

950. 271 41 T1UyO) (12 FUMINES)

204134 MYBLACKTHORN 151 (S) (Mrs. M Cobum) P Nicholis 5-11-10. O Bairrows (7) 90

20321-2 TAP ON TOOTSE 36 (D.G) (R Compor) T Woll 4-11-8 ... R Mesony (3) 97

405034 GROVIANE QUAY 187 (Mrs. G Basing) 6 Basing 7-11-8 ... Mr A Basing (7) 96

6P4P21 DAFRAM 105 (F) (Gear Manguess Part ship) M Instruments Proceedings 7-11-6 ... Mr A Basing (7) 96

240034 SANIS PORT 151 (Mrs. C Mangues C Popeam 6-11-8 ... Mr A Basing 97

240034 SANIS PORT 151 (Mrs. C Mangues P Rome 6-11-8 ... Mr A Fitzgerald 98

65340-0 HYDEMILA 22 (Mrs. T Pittington) Mrs. T Pittington 6-10-12 ... Mr A Fitzgerald 98

65340-0 HYDEMILA 22 (Mrs. T Pittington) Mrs. T Pittington 6-10-12 ... G Hogan (3) 89

116342 REGAL GERU 39 (F.G) (C Commis) C Barrel 5-10-9 ... & Fenton 89

116342 REGAL GERU 39 (F.G) (C Commis) C Barrel 5-10-9 ... & Fenton 98

0-51231 LITTLE TRICTINES 22 (P) (Mrs. T Michael Salmer) Mrs. Schmor 6-10-5 G Uglon 5
24PV/F - DUSEN'S AMARIO 345 (R Buchter) R Buckler 7-10-0 ... B Powell 1
handless Calvers Award 9-5. Embre Beru 4-8-12 Long bandican Durens Award 9-5 Embley Rusy 8-12

BETTNEC: 11-4 Dairam, 4-1 Crohane Osay, 5-1 Little Torctore, 7-1 Myblackthorn, 8-1 Regal Gern, 70-1 Sand: Point, Naren , Typhoon, 12-1 other: 1995: THE LAST FLING 3-11-12 R Guest (3-1 bar) Mrs S Smith 14 ran

GUIDE FOOUR RACECARD

tayousile in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard G — good S — soit, good to soit, heavy). Owner in brackets Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus are allowance The Times Private Handicapper's rating

4.35 VALETS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,941: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

SIS

4(1: 27) 1 (VyO) (1) Intillers)
14(2) 22: ZATTON 185 (D.F.S) (Chebenham Racing Lid) D Nicholson 5-12-8 ... A Maguira 99
153272: MYTTOM'S CRÜDIC 703 (D.F.) (6 Mytton) D Nicholson 5-11-13 ... Mr R Thornton (7) 003213- RAMSCESS 131 (8) (1 Diagram) N Insisten-Danes 4-11-8 ... C. Lienselijm 94
129-380 1000MLCH TOOSON 23 (FS) (1 Aermard) Mr Pice 8-11-5 ... B. Powed 41-5122 PNIR DF JACKS 30 (D.B.F.F.C) (0 Wiscon) 6 L Moore 6-10-8 ... R Durwmody 92
123362 MRISTERS MADAM (168 V.D.S) (1 Novikis) 1 Novikis 5-10-7 ... J. Culture (8)
423542 KNIGHT IN SUE 795 (D.F.) (06 & Joanne Rachards M Pice 10-10-5 ... C. Maude 40P000- MEANUS MILLER 163 (S) Mkcs 6 Donoran) R Rome 8-10-4 ... D Galtagher 89
POSS72 LIME STREET BLUES 135 (B) (Chebesham Racing Lid) C Brooks 5-10-4 ... G Bradley 94
44900-2 ZINGBAR 6 (D.S) (D Holpin) J Bradley 4-10-0 ... A P McCoy 94
44P04F-P WILL JAMES 119 (B.D.F.G) (Mrs J Methourne) C Drewe 10-10-0 ... S Curran 94

BETTING: 3-1 Remediers, 4-1 Zaroon, 9-2 Mytton's Chorce, 6-1 Lime Street Blues, 8-1 Toomoch Toosport, 10-1 Zingsbar, Natight in Side, 14-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

☐ The Mark Johnston-trained Gothenberg (Jason Weaver) and Sean Woods's Mistle Cat (Richard Hughes) tackle the group one Premio Vittorio di Capua over a mile at Milan tomorrow.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Fontwell Park (first race, 2.30), Pontetract (2.15). TUESDAY: Redicar (2.15), Warwick WEDNESDAY: Nottingham (2.10). Towcaster (2.20), York (2.00).

THURSDAY: Ludlow (2.20), Wincartor (2.10), York (2.00) FRIDAY: Ascot (BBC, 200). Carlisle (1.50), Huntingdon (2.10). SATURDAY: Ascot (BBC, 200), Bangor (205), Hexham (220), Worcester (225), York (C4, 2.15) Flat meetings in bold

RACELINE NEWMARKET 101 201 HAYDOCK 102 202 103 | 203 UTTOXETER CHEPSTOW 104 204 W'HAMPTON 105 205 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168
Physical deep. Physical clay land. 151 RM

Pick up the phone PICK UP A £10 *FREE BET FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS

staking \$25 or more using Switch or Delta bank or building society debit cards.

TOTE CAMBRIDGESHIRE 1 mile 1 furlong handicap, Newmarket 3.35pm, Live on CH4 TV. market 3.35pm, Live on CH4 TV.

40/1 Give Me A Ring
40/1 Silver Groom
40/1 Sue's Return
50/1 Autumn Cover
50/1 Double Bluff
50/1 Moments Of Fortune
50/1 Star Manager
50/1 Star Manager
50/1 Star Manager
50/1 Tertium
66/1 Another Time
66/1 Fairywings
66/1 Another Time
66/1 Fairywings
66/1 Show Faith
100/1 King Athelstan
100/1 Nigel's Lad
100/1 Nordinex
150/1 Blaze Of Song 10/1 Crown Court 10/1 Crown Court
10/1 Game Ploy
11/1 Kammtarra
14/1 Angus-G
14/1 Clifton Fox
14/1 Master Charter
14/1 North Song
14/1 Yeast
14/1 Yeast
22/1 Billy Bushwacker
25/1 Almond Rock
28/1 Kayvee
33/1 Hawksley Hill
33/1 Nagnagnag
33/1 Secret Spring Each way One Quarter the color a place 1,2,3,4 Prims subject to fluctuation Angilable up to First Chorn Tatterrate Rule 4k) may apply Non numer - no be RING TODAY BET TODAY

0800 44 40 40 Free bet is a \$10 Straight Forecast on the Tote Cambridgeshire today. (Please place your bet and make your free bet selection within the same call.)

TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0500 289 892. WILLIAM HILL RULES APPLY.
PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION.

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COURSE SPECIALISTS

BETTING 5-2 Perculait 7-2 Mannagase, 9-2 Silveung, 5-1 Flemmochth 7-1 Solat Obaron, 8-1 Zero Presideno. 10-1 Mangoni, 12-1 Madnileno, 16-1 others

HAYDOCK PARK: Trainers: J Gosden, 24 winners from 109 runners, 22 0%; P Makin, 5 from 24, 20 8%, T Barron, 4 from 21, 19% D Loder, 6 from 32, 18 8%, M Heaton-Elfis, 5 from 27, 18 5% Jockeys: N Variey, 4 winners from 17 rides, 23 5%; R Hayin, 3 from 20, 15 0%; S Sanders, 5 from 39, 12 8%, J Carroll, 26 from 216, 12,0%, C Rutter, 5 from 42, 11 9% Databas, 3 non-1 35, 12 0 to, 3 canon, 20 non-1 to, 12 0 to, 5 non-1 2, 11 3 5 UTTOXETER: Trainers: C Eparton 6 wenters from 20 numers, 30 0%, C Menn, 6 from 21, 28 6%, O Sherwood, 15 from 54, 27.8%, M Ppe, 35 from 135, 25.9%, J J O'Neil, 6 from 24, 25 0%, J cokeys: J Osborne, 25 wenters from 32 ndes, 31 7%, P Nwan, 5 from 20, 25 0%; G Tonney, 9 from 39, 23.1%; D Bridgwater, 18 from 103, 17 5%, A S Smith, 6 from 29, 17 2% Tonney, 9 from 39, 23,1%; D snagwater, 18 from 103, 17 5%, A 5 anim. 5 with 29, 17 28 WOLVERHAMPTON: Trainers D Loder, 5 winners from 15 namers, 33,3%, M Johnston, 40 from 164, 24,4%; C Dwyer, 6 from 28, 21,4%, P Hastam, 27 from 127, 21,3%; M Prescott, 17 from 54, 24,4%; C Dwyer, 6 from 28, 21,4%, P Hastam, 27 from 127, 21,3%; M Prescott, 17 from 54, 12 from 35, 21 from 218 ndes, 19 3%; P McCabe, 7 from 52, 13 5%, T Sprake, 12 from 94, 12 8%; F Lynch, 14 from 111, 12,6%; D Winght, 24 from 199, 12 1%, J Fortune, 12 from 99, 12 1%

HAYDOCK PA		
TEATHON OV D	ΛО	
HAYINN TI	-ЛП	ITA:

THUNDERER 1.40 Frustana. 2.10 Melt The Clouds. 2.45 O Factor. 3.20 Takadou, 3.55 Marsh Marigold. 4.30 Shakiyr. 5.00 Listed Account.

going: Soft DRAW 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

1.40 WALNUT MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-D: £3,485 51) (12 runners)

2-Y-D: £3,485 51) (12 ruthrers)

1 5500 FME TMES 64 C Fathurs 9-0

2 2232 FMUTAMA 29 J Beny 9-0

3 HYDE PARK M Present 9-0

5 8500 SPARK MF HARRY 29 Mrs 1 Santates 9-0

5 8500 SPARK MF HARRY 29 Mrs 1 Santates 9-0

6 6550 TORONTO 14 (8F) J Beny 9-0

7 03 MOVAN OUERN 84 R Hollechad 8-9

8 0 PATRITA PARK 17 H Harry 8-9

9 35 QUEEN'S PRESENT 30 J Spanning 8-9

10 433 RIMY TUESDAY 35 B MACHADO 8-9

11 SANOMA P Moton 8-9

12 U SOMETHING BUE 51 I Vision 8-9

13 J SOMETHING BUE 51 I Vision 8-9 9 McKeown 5 P Fessey (5) 8 S Sanders 7 M Wigkam 10 P McCabe (3) 2 R Lappin 3-1 Fratana, 7-2 Cocen's Pageant, 4-1 Ruby Tuesday, 5-1 Mahyan Queen, 6-1 Hydn Park, 8-1 Teranto, 16-1 Casona, 20-1 others.

2.10 RALLI BROTHERS AND CONEY HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £4,213: 1m 2! 120yd) (19)

3-Y-O: £4,213-1m 21120yd) (19)

1 0601 CORSORDINO 6 (G) L Cuman 9-12
2 0400 RISECUTE 35 F) Mes. G helimony 9-7
3 3100 MACRORD SOUND 14 (F) I Factarin 9-4
4 2435 ALAHBARI 22 (F) P Wathiny 9-3
5 2566 CASSEE FLYER 24 (F) H Hains 9-2
6 2455 MELT THE CLOUDS 16 P Hains 9-2
7 241 FALED 10 MT 46 (F) M Preson 8-13
8 6-42 OPALETTE 21 Lady Heines 8-11
9 0440 LEDGEMORY LIBE 120 Ms. M Roweley 8-9
11 055 CALEBOALA 25 D Morting 8-7
12 0450 LOVE BATETA 31 J Bank 8-7
13 6000 JEHN-T 14 J Beny 6-6
14 242 VANARIZHA 08 RE 33 (M) Liye 8-1
15 000 FOAMBOALE RAME 130 W Mysco 8-1
16 6200 OFDANIO 8 (LOF E ALSON 7-1)
17 4-00 SYZLING SYMPHONY 158 (F) B Fahrey 7-10
18 2140 NEWSPRICE BOY 14 (G) M Meagher 7-10
19 6247 NOSCY MATHEN 15 (F) B Fahrey 7-10
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19 6247 NOSCY MATHEN 15 (F) B Fahrey 7-10
10 MB Bard (5) 2
10 OFTICAL STANDARD 1 (G) M Meagher 7-10
10 MB Bard (5) 2 9-2 Opalette, 5-1 Cotecordono, 6-1 Calendola, 7-1 Alamico, Meti lite Clouds, Venaduro Dec 8-1 Failed To Hal 10-1 others

2.45 IMACO FILLIES HANDICAP

(£4,054 7/ 30)yd) (16)

1 534 RSS ME AGAM 105 (F) R Hamon 3-9-10 R Perham 9
2 5101 O FACTOR 42 (F.S) D Haydo Lore 4-9-10 S Drowns 1
3 0410 SALMAS 36 (D.F.S.) Farshame 3-9-10 N Variey (2) 13
4 8006 MSS WATERLRE 14 (C.S.) P Ever 3-9-6 Authory Bond (7) 6
5 5000 FAME AGAM 14 (D.G.S.) Mrs J Ransdorn 4-9-5 M Wigham 16
5 3560 OLESN OF ALL BRIDS 9 (V.D.E.S) R Boss 5-9-4 M Rumane 4
7 6303 DESERT LYNO 7 (G.) T Waters 3-9-3 M Rumane 4
7 6305 DESERT LYNO 7 (G.) T Waters 3-9-3 D McKesson 7
9 1500 BEST OF ALL 56 (F.S.) J Berry 4-9-0 Jerry Berson (7) 2
110 SOND LOSSEL 32 (S.) Subdivined 4-9-0 Jerry Berson (7) 2
111 500 SIMMER BEAUTY 35 J Goaden 3-9-0 J Carroll 11
500 SIMMER BEAUTY 35 J Goaden 3-9-0 J Carroll 11
512 4050 TALL 56 (F.S.) J Goaden 3-9-0 J Carroll 11
512 4050 TALL 56 (F.S.) A Belley 4-8-12 K Daley 5
13 2500 SHASAR 8 (F) W Haigh 4-8-11 R Lappin 15
14 1120 PRINCESS ERIOS 57 (G.) B McKelbrin 3-8-4 S Sanders 12
15 030 WHITE HARE 29 Mrs M Reveloy 3-8-3 M Ferning 14
15 0506 BOLLIN DOROTHY 28 (D.S.) T Essenty 3-8-3 M Ferning 4
4-1 Surromer Beauty, 11-2 O Factor, 7-1 füss Min Again, 15-2 White Have, 8-1
Salma, Mrs Waterline, 10-1 Desert Lyra, 12-1 oftens

3.20 RALLI BROTHERS AND CONEY CONDITIONS

STAKES (£4,728, 5f) (7) 1 21 SAMEER 18 (P.G) Sacod bin Satist 3-90 J Cannoll 2 2 D005 ARSELIMAN 7 (R.D.F.C.S.) J Bony 6-8-12 G Carter 5 3 0000 TARROUM 5 (D.F.C.S.) M Johnson 3-8-13 D Michaelm 7 4 0000 TARROUM 5 (D.F.C.) M Johnson 5-8-13 R Lapon 3 5 0001 CROSTLERS CRUMN 10 (R.D.F.C.) S benkbron 4-8-7 J Fortune 4 5 00054 KUNUCU 5 (D.F.C.) I Bareco 3 8-7 S Candero 1 7 5000 TARROUM 5 (D.F.C.) I Bareco 3 8-7 S Candero 1 7 1 Salvanel, 4-1 Junianos, 9-2 Tacker 5-1 Contact Scrietti, 6-1 ottest

3.55 MAPLE SELLING NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-D \$2,474; 6f) (24)

2 Y-O S2 474; 61) (24)

1 2600 MAZEL 32 (B) T ELECTRO 9-7

2 5320 FILL TRACEARD TY 93 (V.G. J. Berry 9-2

3 2527 SILL TRACEARD TY 93 (V.G. J. Berry 9-2

4 000 HAPSEN 56 (B) I T ELECTRO 9-7

5 2500 VERTAROUNG 8 (B) M W ELECTRO 9-7

5 2600 VERTAROUNG 8 (B) M FEATURE 9-7

5 2600 VERTAROUNG 8 (B) M W ELECTRO 9-7

5 3504 SERVET SWREGS 28 W Man 8-12

9 2240 CHAMPROCH ON ICE 31 P EARL 55

10 2530 SERVET SWREGS 28 W Man 8-12

11 4150 PCTRING CRAW ER 40 S HOUSENED 8-10

11 4150 PCTRING CRAW ER 40 S HOUSENED 8-10

12 0500 BROCTIME INE 8 Ms M Receive 8-9

13 0060 PDLY MODON 3 (S) M CHAMPON 8-8

14 0060 CLASSIC PARTITIONS 7 (B) M W ELECTRO 9-7

15 3060 BATTLE GROUND 17 If Catagitan 8-5

16 BOF MSS ALIC 17 I HONO 8-5

17 0000 REAL FIRE 9 M Meaner 14

18 0060 SHAPP RETURN 28 I Neur 8-3

19 0060 SHAPP RETURN 28 I Neur 8-3

10 0050 SANSPET 12 (N) R FAINT 8-2

11 5050 SANSPET 12 (N) R FAINT 8-2

12 0000 SUPERBOOTS 17 (B) J Bery 8-1

20 0000 SUPERBOOTS 17 (B) J Medical 3-1

21 0000 SUPERBOOTS 17 (B) W Hoop 7-13

23 0000 SUPERBOOTS 17 (B) W Hoop 7-13

24 0000 UCKYROD AN INAME 7-10

25 NAME MARGEN 7-11 HON SUpprise, Regions, Report, 8-1 Brocking text, Sorute Service 1 And Margent 7-11 HON Supprise, Regions, Report, 8-1 Brocking text, Sorute Service 1 And Margent 7-11 HON Supprise, Regions, Report, 8-1 Brocking text, Sorute Service 1 And Market 1 And Margent 7-11 HON Supprise, Regions, Report, 8-1 Brocking text, Sorute Service 1 And Market 1 And 6-1 March Mangeld, 7-1 Hoh Surprue, Jungard, 8-1 Brocking Line, Service Swings 10-1 Bable Ground, 12-1 others

4.30 RACING SCHOOLS APPRENTICES

ANDICAP (E3.241: 1m 61) (20)

1 211- LA BRIEF 320 (D.G.S) M Fyan 4-9-11
2 1294 CAUDRIN'S CHOKE: 15 (D.F.S) C Aben 5-9-9
3 4001 SMETINES HERSELF 91 (G) M Fyan 3-9-7
4 0002 STAILED 15 (D.F.S.S) P Walsyn 6-9-7
5 005- BANKS N ROUSEE 2501 J O Neb 5-9-6
6 5069 PORZAR 35 (G) J J O Neb 4-9-5
7 -006 SCARNAY 7 M Hexon-File 4-9-5
9 0451 BACKNOODS 35 (G) W Berboune 3-9-2
10 29-0 SEMICTA 7 (M.S. M Revely 4-9-5
11 015-4 COURSE RISHMS 40 (F) B Medathon 5-8-12
12 5056 FAIN 28 J Practa 3-8-17
13 -500 SCINDER CEVE B (S) M Meate 6-8-11
14 0454 CHARLE BIGTIME 5 (F) B Medathon 5-8-12
15 500 SOLIDER CEVE B (S) M Meate 6-8-11
15 500 SOLIDER CEVE B (S) M Meate 6-8-11
16 1305 SUPERMICK 15 (D.F.G.) W How 5-8-8
17 3041 HAMANA HERIORS 14 (D.F.) 5 type 3-8-1
18 0054 DUTY SERGEART 14 (F) S.S) P Liackel 7-3-3 hour Wands 21
19 00-5 GAINNER B SPECIAL 40 (B) 5 Banning 3-7-13
15 Fowle (3) 11
5-1 LB Brief, 13-2 Staffed, 7-1 Sweetness Hersel, Hackan Heights, 8-1 Staken. HANDICAP (£3,241: 1m 6t) (20) 5-1 La Brei, 13-2 Staffed, 7-1 Secripess Herzell, Hazara Heights, 8-1 Staker. The Bultamick Kild 10-1 Backwoods, 12-1 others

5.00 WHITEBEAM MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-0: £3.485: 1m 30yd) (9)

-U: 23.403. III 50/04/27

A.M. AD D Money 8-17

3 LISTED ACCOUNT 18 L Commis 8-11

MISEL INA D Loder 8-11

MISEL DANE 29 (8F) P Hams 8-11.

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SAFEYA 8 5-2 Misellina, 3-1 Saaleya, 4-1 Listed Account, 5-1 Noble Dane, 6-1 others.

Melrose. 11-4); 2, Pangeran (13-8 lav), 3, Prinsboy (14-1), 4 ran 11-1, 271 R Allan Tote: £3 30 DF: £4 10, CSF: £7 07.

2.45 (3m hdle) 1, Crofton Lake (6 Storey, 5-4); 2, Canonbielbothered (8-13 lav) 2 ran 4(1 J Decon. Tote £2.50.

4.55 (2m hole) 1, Vintage Red (A Dobber, 15-8 g-lav); 2, Robsers (15-8 g-lav), 3, Theletes (9-4), 4 ran, 3 ld, 21 G Richards Tote: £3 00 DF: £2 40, CSF, £5.46

Placecot £203.40.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER 7.00 Mon Bruce. 7.30 King Rat. 8.00 Arcady. 8.30 Chevalier. 9.00 Will To Win. 9.30 Delrob.

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE GOING: STANDARD 7.00 PINK ICE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-0: \$2,519: 61) (13 numbers)

7.30 AMETHYST CLAIMING STAKES

22,415; 7() (12)

1 5333 BERTICO 12 (N.CD.F.G) Mr. N. Warzele, 7:3-8 C Teague (3) 5

2 0500 BANGRIG LAWYER 11 (D.F.G) B Mechan 5:9-4 M Lord 12

3 6500 DANCRIG LAWYER 11 (D.F.G) B Mechan 5:9-4 M Teched 6

4 5500 DANCRIG LAWYER 11 (D.F.G) B Mechan 5:9-4 Armee Look (5) 4

5 0000 MRG RAT 8 B, RD.F.G I Tenno 5:9-2 J Carrod 11

6 0004 DANCRIG SOUX 28 (D.G) D Netrols, 4-3-73 M Weigham 7

9 0000 MALERET 12; P.P. Burphan 7:8-10 D Mechan 7

9 1130 VOMBE BERISCH 99 (B.CD.F.G) 7 Wool 44-9: 5 Sanders 9

5 5000 DRAGONIOV 12 N/CD.G in Libraria; 7-8-8 D Gertlans (5) 10

11 5000 BANGRISH 8 (D.F.S.) P Netrols 48-4 G Carter 1

12 0-09 MODED MODO 157J (C.G.) B Libraria; 4-7-3 J Barrinio (7) 2

Berlico, 3-1 Darcing Sabo 7-1 Yeang Beaton 9-1 Bachlus Shae 10:1 (£2,415: 71) (12) 7-4 Berken, 3-1 Darrang Sana, 7-1 Yeang Beason, 8-1 Beakle, State, 10-1 Darrang Lawre, 12-1 King Rat, 14-1 others

8.00 PETER LAST MEMORIAL HANDICAP

1. 4005 HARD OF STRAW 14 (N.C.G) P RE-aphy 4-10-0 S Drowne 11 S Sanders 8 3 2-6 WEELERY (Ed. (f) M Borochough 3-9-11 S Sanders 8 3 0001 MTBLARM 37 J (f) Mr. A Sandark 4-9-1 Supple 1 A Con. 5 4 403 SELLA SECONA 133 Dept. Herror 4-9-3 Flynch (f) 6 A50 EXPRISING RUBBERT 350 P Hams 4-9-4 S Hand 17 2012 ARCADY 14 (F) P Warnyo 1-9-4 J Carroll 7 (£2,519: 1m 4t) (12)

6 C-00 INSERTINGUOUI FPIC 92 of Literan 5-9-4 CRUSSER 3
9 1223 ORICHARD GOLD 53 (BF.C) J Pearte 5-9-2 Done 07M-0 2
10 0004 AL WELAL 48 J J Anadré 4-9-1 J Forbuse 4
11 0005 OLD MISS WORD 39 P HARDY 3-9-11 S Westerorth 9
12 0-52 ALL ON 14 (D.G.) J PERTUTE 7: 8-11 5-2 Reva Sedara 3 1 Arrect, 5-1 An Or. 7-1 Russim, 18-1 Ribmann, Ordand Cold, 12-1 At Help. 16-1 other. 8.30 s j dixon & sons handicap (£3,502 1m 11 79yd) (13) (£3,502 1m 11 79yd) (13)

1 0003 HEATHYARDS LADY 28 (C.F.) 2 Hoberther 5.9-13 F Lynch (3) 10

1 1249 SWETT SUPPOSN 35 (C.D.) 2 HEATH 5.9-13 F Lynch (3) 10

3 3501 MARSSIR 26 (6) 1 Ledy 4.9-11 DR McCabe 3

0 000 CHRN CASTLE 28 (6,6) 7 Hotels 19-10 G Carrier 8

5 8000 OLR 10M 108 40,6) 1 Marster 4-9-2 M Carled 9

1 0001 TA PARTY 14 (C.G.) 7 Cornegton-Store 3-9-8 T Synder 7

1 650 LADY BOGGTY 91 (C.G.) 7 Heath 13-7 S Smither 4

1 4122 CHEVILLER 75 (Carled 4-9-7 M Weighten 13

1 000 ROWING OCEAN 28 (6.5) 0 Chapter 5-9-4 A Culture 2

10 3025 TREATHE MAGIC 14 (6) 2 Forming 3-5-5 D McGarre 1

1 6019 CORNER COEAN 28 (6.5) 0 Chapter 5-9-4 Dame 0 THEFT 1

1 6019 CORNER COEAN 28 (6.5) 0 Chapter 5-9-4 Dame 0 THEFT 1

1 6019 CORNER (C.G.) 6 1 Elevation 3-9-0 Dame 0 THEFT 1

1 6019 CORNER (C.G.) 6 1 Elevation 3-9-0 Dame 0 THEFT 1

1 Gard 12

1-1 Marcs 5-1 Les Fair 6-1 People Discet, 7-1 Chevaler, 8-1 Hosthyards Lady 1-1 Status 5-1 lea Fatty, 6-1 People Ducet, 7-1 Chevaler, 8-1 Heathyards Lady 18-1 Sweet Copposer, Trusbe Mayor, 12-1 others 9.00 JACK KIRKLAND MEMORIAL SELLING NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-0: £2,070. 51) (11)

11-4 Rober Gal. 2-1 Cayers Tayer 4-1 Kild To Win, 5-1 Russly, 7-1 others.

9.30 RUBY HANDICAP (£2,070, 61) (13)

5-2 Detroit 7-2 And Adment, 5-1 Regione Rose, 9-1 No Monkey Nutr., 10-1 Names See 12-1 Walk The Beat 14-1 others

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER 2.30 Nordic Breeze. 3.00 Father Sky. 3.30 Star Market. 4.05 McGregor The Third. 4.40 Robert's Toy. 5.10 Ali's Alibi. 5.40 Highbeath.

SIS

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.30 NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER NOVICES HURDLE (£2,411: 2m) (14 runners)

| MOVICES HURDLE (E2,411: 2m) (14 runners)
| MOVICES HURDLE (E2,411: 2m) (14 runners)
| MOS CHARLESHAN WARRICH 40F R Peacetà 7-10-11 Chris Webb (5)
| CHRISTIANI WARRICH 40F R Peacetà 7-10-11 Chris Webb (5)
| ATHORISM COLLINARY 125 T Calovet 5-10-11 T Chris Webb (6)
| ATHORISM COLLINARY 125 T Calovet 5-10-11 T Chris Webb (7)
| 40 PHO CORN 325 Mar 5 flows 9-10-11 T Beylest (6)
| 6 B3-0 MISHT BOAT 119 W Clay 5-10-11 T Beylest (7)
| 6 B3-0 MISHT BOAT 119 W Clay 5-10-11 T Beylest (7)
| 6 B3-0 MISHT BOAT 119 W Clay 5-10-11 T Beylest (7)
| 6 B3-0 MISHT BOAT 119 W Clay 5-10-11 T Beylest (7)
| 6 B3-0 MISHT BOAT 119 W Clay 5-10-11 T BOUST (7)
| 8 B3-0 MISHT BOAT 119 W Clay 5-10-11 T BOUST (7)
| 8 B3-0 MISHT BOAT 119 W Clay 5-10-11 T BOUST (7)
| 10 MISHT BOAT 119 W Clay 5-10-11 T BOUST (7)
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| 10 MISHT BOAT 119 W Clay 5-10-11 T BOUST (7)
| 10 MISHT BOAT 119 W CLAY 5-10-10 T BOUST (7)
| 11 MISHT BOAT 119 W CLAY 5-10-10 T BOUST (7)
| 12 MISHT BOAT 140 GEARNE 6-10-6 T Strong Grather (7)
| 12 Misht Boezn 7-2 in 6oof Fasth, 6-1 Dash 10 The Prome, 10-1 others

5-2 Mordic Breeze, 7-2 in Good Faith, 6-1 Dash To The Phone, 10-1 others 3.00 STAFFORDSHIRE YEOMANRY CHALLENGE CUP NOVICES CHASE (£5,068: 3m) (5)

3.15 Decom. Tote £2.50.
3.15 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Anthony Bell (A Dobbin, 7-4), 2, lisewn (4-9 tay) 2 ran NFP Price Stybuird 91 T Car Toter £2.60;
3.50 (2m hote) 1, Supertop (M Dwyer, 4-6 tay); 2, Soning Loaded (9-3); 3, Lufle Reciving (8-1), 8 ran 7t, 51 Lungo Tote £1.60; £1.70, £110, £2.10 DF. £3.40. CSF-£4.61 Bought in 2,800grs
4.25 (3m 1f ch) 1, Trumpet (Michael Brennan, 11-10 tay); 2, Upwell (5-2). 4 ran Only Iwo Inishad. 7t, J O'Shea. Tote £1.70 DF-£2.20 CSF: £3.92.
4.55 (2m hotel 1, Vintane Red (A Dobbin,

3.30 SENTINEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,136: 2m 4l 110yd) (5) 10se: £3 UD LP* £2 40, CSP. £5,46 5.25 (2m tlat race) 1, Stoux Warrior (N Horrocks, 13-8), 2, Chiel Gale (6-4 lay); 3, Undajane (7-2), 5 ran NR Faster Ron Nis, 14d C Thomson Tote: £1 90, £1 00, £20 20 DF £1 30, CSP £4.53.

1 1231 STAR MARKET 21 (B.F.G.S.) J Spearing 6-11-10 D Bridgingter 2 Fib. CALL MY GUEST 117F (D.G.S.) R Practicle 6-11-7 IN Williamson 3 213- SPARIC RISE (YASMEN 155 (D.S.) P Hobbs 4-11-3 G Tormey (3) 4 1UB- OLYMPIAN 251 (B.F.S.) J Neville 9-11-2. W Marston 5 611- TIELYMURRY TOFF 154 (D.) J Jedesson 5-11-0 E Callagten (5) ng Yasmun, 5-2 Tullymurry Tolf, 190-30 Star Market, 10-1 others

4.05 BRITANNIA BUILDING SOCIETY HANDICAP

CHASE (£7,003: 3m 2f) (8) 1 4141 ANDRELDT 14 (8.F.G.) P Bavers 9-12-0 ... N Williamson 2 68-1 McGRELDT 14 (8.F.G.) P Bavers 9-12-0 ... N Williamson 3 68-1 McGRELDT 14 (8.F.G.) J Upca 6-11-4 ... B Supple 3 2111 CATS RUN 14 (F.G.) J Upca 6-11-4 ... P McGRELDT 15 (2.F.G.) F McGRELDT 15 (2.F.G.) P McGRELDT 16 (1.F.G.) McGRE 3-1 McGregor The Third 7-2 Cals Run, 9-2 Wholempale, 5-1 Childhay Chocolate, 6-1 Andreiol, 9-1 Real Progress, 10-1 other;

4.40 STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,399: 2m) (4)

1 IF64 ROBERT'S TOY 21 (CD.F.G) M Pipe 5-11-12.... G Supple (7)
2 -4PP LAYHAM LOW 14 (B.D.F) G Shemood 5-10-5 ... J Osborne
3 -125 STEADFAST ELITE 9 (G) J J O'Nebl 5-10-0 ... T Kebl
4 0r0 EMPEROR CHANG 21 (F) K Warne 9-10-0 T Kebl
4-6 Robert's Tor. 9-4 Steadfast Effer, 4-1 Layham Loe, 33-1 Emperor Chang.

5.10 QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£4,202: 2m 4f) (7)

6-4 Bostone, 100-30 Michierado, 5-1 AB's Alfat, 6-1 Cornedy Road. 19-1 others

5.40 GREEN'UN SPORTS FINAL NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£4,151: 2m 6l 110yd) (10)

1 21P TIPPING THE LINE 84 (8F.F.S) N PIGE 6-11-9... C O'Duryer
1 21P TIPPING THE LINE 84 (8F.F.S) N PIGE 6-11-9... P Neven
2 501- HIGHBEATH 148 (6) Mer M Reveloy 5-11-3... P Neven
3 MCH EMPENOR A Carnil 6-10-11 ... J Osborne
4 20- LE BARON 178 C Egorica 5-10-11 ... J Osborne
5 003- MUSICAL HT 182 P PILCHARD 5-10-11 ... R Martry
7 101- SAMLEE 180 F.G.S) P Hobbs 7-10-11 ... D Bridgwater
101- SAMLEE 180 F.G.S) P Hobbs 7-10-11 ... D Bridgwater
9 646- REVERBANK ROSE 152 W Clay 5-10-6 ... I Eley
10 345- MADISE MCSPLASH 130 J Jederson 4-10-5 ... M Dwyer 9-4 Samlee, 3-1 Highbeath, 4-1 Topping The Line, 6-1 Le Baron, 10-1 others.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Newmarket

Going: good to firm
200 (6) 1. PRENDS CA (Pal Eddery.
13-2) 2. Bajan Rose (R Cochrane, 6-11: 3.)
Defined Feature (W R Swinburn, 5-1)
ALSO RAN: 9-2 lay Galine (5th), 5 Nind Ol
Ught, 15-2 Shanghal Gail (6th), 12 Beboy
Babe. Tropical Dance (4th), 25 Forentia, 9
ran Nk, 3l, 3l, 9k, shind R Harmon at East
Everleich Total: 63 05 02-40, £1.70, £1.90
DF: 121 70 Tito: 120 80, CSF: £39.56
Tricast £180.84 Imh 11.20sec
2.35 (Im 4) 1, BUSY FLIGHT (M Hills,
11-8 tav, Thunderer's nap); 2, Key To My
Heart Li Weaver, 3-11; 3, Sharst Kabeer (L
Dettori, 3-1) ALSO RAN: 6 Heron Island
Hilly 4 ran NR: Mends Misse: 41, 19k, nk B
Hills at Lambourn, Tole: £2 20 DF: £290
CSF: £5.20 2min 28 19sec
2.05 (7t), HIGHBORIN (W Ryan, 25-11; 2,
Madly Sharp (M Hills, 11-1), 3, Sassedoi
(Envira O'Comizan, 14-1) ALSO RAN: 100(20 Tol) av Don Bosio, 11-2 Emerging Markat, 6
Law Commission (6th), 13-2 Everglades, 10 Resounder, 12 Roustrer, 14 Seigneurial
16th), Ziggy's Dancer (4th), 25 Maid For
The Hills 12 tan 11, 41, 23, M Red For Going: good to firm

\$245.41 Tricasi \$2,213.72 tmin | 23,74sec. 23.74sec.

3.40 (7f) 1. GRAPESHOT (L. Detron, 5-4 fav); 2. Musical Danoer (K. Fallon, 20-1), 3. Fallel (R. Hills, 5-7). ALSO RAN 6 Bachelors Pad (5th), 7. Shook Value (4th), 8 impenal Presentent, 10. Johnny Staccalo (6th), 33 Rucie Awatkening, 8 ran, 13a), 34l, 11, 114l, 134l. L. Curneri at Newmarket. Tole: E2.30. E1 40, 22 10, E1.90. DF. E15.60 CSF: E22 86 1min 23.47sec.

4.15 (1im. 2f), 1. NAJM MUBEEN (M. Roberts, 16-1); 2. Oope Patilie (W. R. Swinburn, 9-4 fav); 3. Jerry Cutrona (R. Cochrane, 12-1). ALSO RAN 7-2 Select Few, 9-2 Massingo (6th), 13-2 Dalos (5th), 11 Gold Disc, 14 Brandon Magic, 25 Albeita, Warbrook (4th), 10 ran NF Prospector's Cove, 1 4l, hd, 5l, 3l, shihd A. Stewart al Newmarket. Tole E19 70; C3.90. E1.30, C3.30 DF. E55.80 Tric: E32.60 CSF: E51.30 Tricast: E425.43, 2min 02.64sec.

02.64sec. 4.50 (1m 6f) 1. FLOATING LINE (K Fellon. 5-2): 2. Lalindi (L Detros. 9-2): 3. Full Throttle (M Henry. 6-4 fav) ALSO RAN 5 Celidh Star (5th). 10 Sharel (4th). 5 ran 5 pp. 11 kil F Alston at

Jackpot: not won (pool of £58,848.54 carried toward to Newmarket today). Placepot £422.20. Quedpot: £62.10. Lingfield Park Going: good, good to firm in places Coang. goods good to limit of peaces 1.20 (8) 1. Wind Choestah (8 Doyle, 4-9 tay); 2. Injazasa (5-1); 3. Sakumbenco (20-1). 12 ran. 2%, 2%, M. Stoute. Tota; £1.30, £1.10, £1.30, £2.80, DF: £2.40, Tino; £12.10, CSF: £4.33

CSF £4.33 1.50 (5t) 1, Heart Throb (F Lynch, 11-8 tar): 2, Hangover Square (7-2); 3, Nopalee (9-1) 10 ran, N, 3; W Hangass Toter, £2.30; £1.10, £1.30, £2.10, DF £4.20, Tno: £7.60 CSF; £6.48. 21.19, 21.39, 22.10, up 14.20, 110.21 oo CSF 96 48.

2.20 (67) 1, Commander Jones (M Tebbuff, 13-2); 2, Petite Danseuse (3-1 tay); 3, Downy (6-1), 18 an. MP Shaf's Cluest, 2, 4l, 8 Meehan, Tote: 08.70; 53.10, 51.60; 52.90. DF: £11.80, Trio: £20.90, CSF £27 71

2.55 (6f) 1, Birst Albeadiya (D Hamson, 11-2), 2, Shifting Tires (4-1 ji-lay); 3, Aim Sevan (13-2), Mighity Phys 4-1 ji-lay 12 ran. Hd, M, M Stoule Tots: 68.50; £3.60, £1.30, £1.90. DF: £25.50, Trio: £96.20 CSF £30.67

Parcepot Description Tole: £3:10; £1:30, £2:10 DF: 3.25 (1m 6f) 1, Zatonum (R Hughes, 7-2): 2, Going: firm Placepot £203.40; £1:30, £2:10 DF: Belmanto (R-1); 3, Renzo (7-2) Heart 5-4 2.15 (2m 4t 110yd hdle) 1, Latvian (S Quedpot £21.00.

tav 13 ran 3% l. kl. l. Montague Hall Tote 54 30: \$1.20, \$1.90, \$1.50 DF \$12.20 Tron 549 30, CSF \$29 32 249 30. CSF 229 32 4.00 (7f) 1. Mercileas Cop (M Tobbutt, 8-1): 2. Sil. St John (6-1), 3. Casiles Burning (20-1): 4. Greenwich Fore (20-1) Eager To Piosse 9-2 law 17 ran NRt. Fan Or Vern-Aria, 4, 21, 8 Meehan Tote: C13.50; C2.00, C2 80, C4 10, C9.00, DF: 199 30 Trio: C437 90 (part won, pool of 123.38 carried forward to 3.35 at Newmarket Iodsy), CSF Bit 27, Tincast: S337.24.

DB1.27. Incast E337.24.
4.35 (7f) 1. See Danzig (D Harrison, 14-1).
2. Amber Fort (9-2); 3. Senous Sensation
(4-1), 4. Ca*droro (12-1). Society Magic 3-1
tav 18 ran. 31, 291 J Bridger Toto 518 70;
4:30, C1 40, E1:90, E3:60, DS1: 254.10. Tho
E101.70. CSF E93 04. Thissat E311 08.
E05 (179. 31.1094); 1. Antic Baw Mr. L. E101.70. CSF-293.04, 11. Artic Bay (Mr L. Jeflord, 20-1); 2, Rossin Clover (5-1); 3, Ayunli (4-5 tay) 14 ran. NR Fally Knight, Montone 2½; 2, Mrs P Dutfield, Tote: 27 40, E3.90, £2.00, £1.40, DF: £76.20 Tno. £67.40 CSF: £129.71 Placepot: £75.20. Quadpot: £75.00.

Hexham

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THE TIMES



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RACING: TOMORROW'S PROGRAMMES AT HOME AND ABROAD

Swain to make stamina tel

By JULIAN MUSCAT

SWAIN, who has made discernible physical progress over the last 12 months, has the right attributes to give Andre Fabre his fourth triumph in the last ten runnings of the Forte Meridien Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (2.50) at Longchamp tomorrow.

Since he fought his way into third place 12 months ago, Swain has been aimed at this race to the exclusion of all others. The son of Nashwan bypassed the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes when the ground came up fast. And his convincing Prix Foy defeat of Pentire should have primed him for the effort of his life. Furthermore, this year's renewal is not laced with the

quality of 12 months ago. Before the rains, Fabre was adamant Pentire would not reverse the Prix Foy verdict. Those rains have surely erased Pentire's chance; this year's running favours the hard of heart over the fleet of foot. Swain showed heart when thrown to the wolves in Paris last year. He forfeited ground by running wide throughout, a tactic partially employed to offset his relative inexperience. He now needs no such considerations. The four-year-old is best when

racing prominently, and his proven behind Helissio in the Prix Niel last stamina should see him gallop right to the wire. With Helissio and Classic Cliche also inclined to keep close tabs on the lead, there should certainly be no loitering.

Helissio is very much the wild card - or just plain wild if judged on his headstrong performance in the Prix du Jockey-Club. However. that is one blot on an otherwise



perfect record. Helissio appears reformed in the hands of Olivier Peslier, who has harnessed his mount's free spirit by allowing the colt his head. Nevertheless, Helissio could complicate matters for Peslier, and his short odds complete an unattractive package.

Of the others, Darazari, a length

GOING: SOFT

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

(Group I: £65,786: 5f) (10 runners)

1.30 PRIX DE L'ABBAYE DE LONGCHAMP

-3 Anabas, 8-1 Easy Option, 10-1 Struggler, 14-1 Herer Goll Rose, 16-1 Kistera, versingperformance, 20-1 others.

TELEVISION

time out, would have better prospects on a sound surface. The same applies to Oscar Schindler, Radevore and Shaamit. Polaris Flight has become disappointing and Tamure lacks a recent run. while Luna Wells, Le Destin, Leonila and Leeds are long-shots of the longest order. Their connections will be praying for the lottery

of an autumnal quagmire. Classic Cliche would thrive in a quagmire and would be a most deserving winner, having tackled Ascot's twin peaks, the Gold Cup and King George, on his last two starts. The speed he showed in the latter contest was startling on ground believed to be too lively.

Classic Cliche's interrupted preparation came as a cruel blow to connections, who have acknowledged the disadvantage just when everything else was conspiring in the horse's favour. Nevertheless, if anywhere near his best, he has real prospects of disputing the finish. That leaves Zagreb and Pilsudski, both of whom should act on the ground. Zagreb is an enigma. An

inexperienced colt, he has been off-

games since running away with the

Irish Derby three months ago. Dermot Weld, his trainer, will

ensure he lacks nothing in fitness, but the Theatrical colt faces a

ferred for a minor berth. Rugged and improving in equal measure, he should thrive on the bustle. In stark contrast to the Arc, the

Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp (1.30) rewards those of speedy inheritance. Remarkably, it was Alec Head who last won the sprint for France with Sigy 18 years ago.

HICHARD EVANS

Nap: MONTSERRAT (3.10 Haydock Park) Next best: Poteen (1.30 Haydock Park)

But Alec's daughter, Criquette, looks poised to end the unhappy sequence with Anabaa, who remains unextended in six outings this season.

So strong is Britain's challenge for the Prix Marcel Boussac (2.05) that the prize looks destined for export. Somewhat curiously for a daughter of Danzie, Yashmak has been waiting for this ground. However, Bianca Nera appeals as one who should be followed until beaten, having already shown a willingness to travel when landing the Moyglare Stud Stakes in Ireland last month.



Swain, here fending off Pentire in the Prix Foy, should confirm the form on softer ground tomorrow

BIG-RACE FIELD

2.50 FORTE MERIDIEN PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE BBC2 (Group I: £527,009: 1m 4f) (16 runners)

1 (13) 3(2) SWAIN 21 (CD.G.5) (Sheikh Mohammed) A Fabra 4-9-5 ... (b c Sadler's Wells - Three Tails) (Marcon, white slee 3 (12) -112 CLASSIC CLICHE 71 (F.E.S.) (Godolphin) S bin Scroor (GB) 4-9-5............ L Delton 95

(b c Salse - Palot (Royal blue) 1741 OSCAR SCHENDLER 15 (D.F.G.SI (O Lehane) K Prendergasi (ke) 4-9-5 C Asmussan 98 (chic Royal Acadomy - Saraday) (Whito, royal blue sash, red and blue quartered cap) 1011 PILSUDSKI 35 (D.F.G.S.) (Lord Weinstock) M Stoute (GB) 4-8-5 W R Sunnburn 96

(b c Polish Precedent - Cocotte) (Pale blue, white and yellow check cap) (8) 1253 LEEDS 21 (D.S) (R Soula) H Van de Poele 4-9-5 (b c Law Society - Miss Persial (Black, yollow chewons and cap) 7 (7) 4312 PENTRE 21 (D BF.F.G) (T Yochda) 6 Wang (GB 4-9-5 (b c Be My Guast - Guif Nooh) (Black and yellow stripes, red sleeves)

-134 SHAAMT 22 (D.BF F.G) (A Dacmal) W Hangas (GB) 3-8-11 _____ Pai Edden: 90 (b c Mtoto - Shomoose) (Pink, green epaulets and armlets, green and pink hooped cap) 1013 RADEVINE 21 (C.F.C) (N. Abaults) A Fatre 3-8-11 Squillot 94 (chr.: Genorous - Bloudan) (Goen, pink sash and cap, winks slaoves)

4112 DABAZARV 21 (D G) (H H Aga Nism) A de Royer-Dupre 3-8-11 ______ G Masse 95 (b c Saction's Wells - Darana) (Green, ned operators) (b c Northern Flagship - Anytimealall) (White, rod stars on sleeves, emerald green cap) 3650 LE DESTIN 21 (G) (M Debeusscher) P Demercestel 3-8-11 ib c Zayyanı - My Darlingı (Pink, groen triple diamond, green sleeves, pink capi (3) 121 ZAGREB 98 (D.G.S.) (A Paudson) D Weld (tie) 3-8-11 ______ M.J Kinana 90 (b c Theatrical - Sophonisbe) (White, red epaulets, blue sleeves, white stars, quartered cap)

1511 HELISSIO 21 (C.D.F.G 5) (E Sarasola) E (ellouche 3-8-11 _____ (b c Farry lung - Helico) (Yellow, green epaulets, yellow cap) 1016 LLINA WELLS 21 (C.F.G.S) (J-L Lagardere) A Fabre 3-8-8..... (b / Sadler's Wells - Lunadox) (Grey, pink cap) 16 (4) 2254 LECHELA 21 (D.F.G.) (R Strauss) R Collet 3-8-8 _____ (b i Caerleon - Dinetina) (White, green hoops, white steeves, green armiet, hooped cap)

BETTING: Corat 3-1 Helissio, 9-2 Swain, 6-1 Derazari Zagneb, 7-1 Classic Cliche, 10-1 Pentire, Shaamet, 16-1 Oscar Schindler, Pilsudsko, 25-1 Tamure, 40-1 Luna Wells, 50-1 Polens Flight, Radevore, 100-1 Leonita, 150-1

Ladbruskes: 3-1 Helecku, 9-2 Swam, 5-1 Zagreb, 6-1 Darazari, 7-1 Classke Cliebe, 8-1 Penšire, 11-1 Stearmit, 16-1 Piccudski, 16-1 Oscar Schmidler, 18-1 Tamune, 33-1 Luna Wells, 66-1 Polans Flight, Radievore, 100-1 Leonita, 150-3 Lo Destin, 200-1 Leots Tote: 11-4 Heissis, 4-1 Swim, 6-1 Darazin, Zagreb, 7-1 Classic Cliche, 9-1 Pentire, 14-1 Steamit, 16-1 Oscar Schnotler, Pilsudsk, 20-1 Tamure, 40-1 Lure Welts, 50-1 Radevice, 66-1 Polaris Right, 100-1 Leonita, 150-1 Le Destin, 200-1 Leonita

William Hill: 3-1 Heitsson, 4-1 Swain, 5-1 Darazmi, 11-2 Zagreb, 7-1 Classic Cliche, 10-1 Pentyn, 12-1 Snaam 14-1 Piloudsiu, 16-1 Oscar Schmider, 20-1 Tamore, 50-1 Luna Wells, 66-1 Polaris Right, Radevore, 150-1 L

1995 LAMMTARRA 3-8-11 L Delton (2-1 tay) 5 bin Surpor (68) 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

SWAIN bear PENTIRE 1/1 in 5-numer group 8 Pro-Fey at Longchamp (1m 41, good) TAMMRE 41 and neck 4th of 13 to Northern Spur in grade 1 Breeders.* Cup Turt at Beharine Park (1m 41, soli) CLASSIC CULCHE bear Strategic Choice 1/41 in 5-numer group 8 East Coast Yorkshire Cup States at York (1m 61, good to 1mm), DSCAR SCHANDLER heat Rey Change 3/41 in 9-numer Jefferson Smuriti Memorial irich St Leger at Curragh (1m 61, good to 1mm) PELSUSSIO beat GERMANY 41 in 7-numer group 1 Mercades-Beat Grosser Press Von Baden in Baden-Baden (1m 41, good) PENTIRE beat CLAS-SIG CULCHE 1/41 in 8-numer group 1 Vang George VI and Queen Elizabeth Damond States at Ascol

(1m 4l, good to fam) on penulamata start with SHAAMI (4th worse off) neck 3rd and OSCAR SCHINOLER 101 4th SHAAMIT 31 and neck 4th of 6 to Thanking 1 and neck 4th of 6 to Thanking 1 and 1

Dettori denied opportunity to repeat historic exploit

FRANKIE DETTORI will not go through the card at Longchamp today. A week on from his historic achievement of partnering all seven win-ners at Ascot, he has rides in only six of the seven races on the first day of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe meeting.

He has been able to secure a mount in only one of the two supporting events on a card which features five group races. "Frankie hasn't got a ride in the claimer," his agent. Matty Cowing, said yester-day. But he could do it on Sunday, as he rides in all

Punters aiming to hit the jackpot by backing Dettori's mounts are assured that British bookmakers will accept bets on each of the 14 races at Longchamp this weekend.

Ladbrokes' spokesman, Si-mon Clare, said: "We will be issuing early prices on the main races. Starting price bets will be settled at pari-mutuel

But backers should be aware that Annaba, whom Dettori rides in today's Prix de Royallieu, will be coupled for betting purposes with Spanish Falls, as will be Ryafan (with Yashmak) in tomorrow's Prix Marcel Boussac and Classic Cliche (with Tamure and Swain) in

EAYFOEK PARK THUNDERER 1.30 Party Romance. 2.00 Jennelle. 2.35 Wild Rita. 3.10 So Intrepid. 3.40 Master Beveled. 4.10 Jo Mell.

DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

1.30 DEAUVILLE MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 2-Y-0: £3,063: 7f 30yd) (11 runners) D AMECO 31 C Thorston 9-0 De De De CAPTAIN CARPARTS 43 J Eyre 9-0 PALLOPEP MES M Reveley 9-0 SHATAAS J Doning 9-0 C24 RODAN BLAZE 23 P Horts 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B Haptury 9-0 PARTY ROMANCE 31 B HAPTURY ROMANCE 31 B

5-2 Caribbean Star, 3-1 Party Romance, 7-2 Stattass, 4-1 Poteen, 8-1 Fullopen, 10-1 Bea's Ruby, 12-1 Sandweld, 14-1 others 2.00 AUTEUIL CONDITIONS STAKES

(£4,484: 2-Y-0: 5f) (6) 5-2 Olympic Spint, 3-1 Jennetie, 7-2 Vasant, 5-1 Big Bent, 6-1 Superior Premiers 8-1 Loving And Ghang

2.35 LONGCHAMP HANDICAP (£3,989: 1m 3i 200yd) (20)

(23,369. IIII 2 20090) (20)
301 2485 HOUSE OF RICHES 9 (G) L Coman 3-9-10 ... O Utbins 11
302 -122 WILD RITA 23 (D.RF.F.6) W Mata 44-9 ... K Fallon 18
303 0300 VALISHENER 5 (D.F. R Hamon 49-9 ... R Parham 20
304 5300 EVALTED 29 (G) M Prescrib 3-9-8 ... S Sanders 13
305 ... 058 BLACKPATCH HELL 134 (D.R.S) N Tinider 7-9-5 Km Tinider 4
306 0112 SUSAR MILL 9 (D.F.G.S) Mas M Reveley 5-9-8 A Cathane 17
307 0500 EVEZIO RUFO 157 (V.S) N Librardon 4-9-3 T G McLanglin 7
308 0212 TURNINGLE 191 (F) Mas M Reveley 5-9-3 ... M Bitch 9
310 6200 BECKSTEN 36 (B) / Durlop 3-9-3 ... M Bitch 9
310 5202 SUBA UP 6 (D.F.S) T Einerigon 6-9-3 ... M Bitch 9
310 5203 BECKSTEN 36 (B) / Durlop 3-9-3 ... M Bitch 9
311 51-4 DEBUTANITE DAYS 80 (C.F.S) C Eperion 4-9-1 Southe Michiel (5) 18
312 4040 MENTALASANYTHIN 6 (BF.C.D.F.G.S) D Haydn Jones 7-9-1 313 250 COS NA FARRAGE 15 (D.F.) Miss L Percai 3-9-1. J Carrol 12
314 3623 CLASSIC PARRSAN 15 R Harris 3-9-0. M Wington 6
315 2043 RUSK 9 J Pearce 3-9-0. M Wington 6
316 2416 BELLATUR 121 (C.S.) E Balding 3-9-0. S Drowes 10
317 3051 NAVAL GAZER 32 (D.F.G.) D Loder 3-8-13. D R McCabe 18
318 3223 VOILA PREMIENE 57 (F) M Tomptier 4-8-13 M Henry (3) 5
319 0050 JOHNS ACT 130 (D.G.S.) D Hoydn Jones 6-3-13. D Rarison 2
320 0016 FAR DAWN 11 (F) 6 Harwood 3-8-12. A Clark 3

5-1 Sugar Mill, 6-1 Wild Rita, 7-1 House Of Paches, 8-1 Volta Premiere, 10-Naval Gazer, Rusik, 12-1 Tumpole, Scha Up, Mentalasanyibin, 14-1 others. **COURSE SPECIALISTS**

TRANERS: W Haggas, 5 winners from 18 numers, 27.8%, W Javvs, 9 from 34, 26.5%, Bob Jones, 6 from 23, 26.1%, J Duniop, 28 from 121, 23.1%, J Gussien, 24 from 109, 22.0%, 8 Hills, 16 from 75, 21.3%, J DOCKEYS: T Sprake, 9 winners from 43 ndes, 20.9%, D Harrison, 7 from 46, 15.2%, D R McCabe, 3 from 21, 14.3%, S Sanders, 5 from 39, 12.8%; J Carroll, 26 from 216, 12.0%, B Doyle, 4 from 39, 10.3%, ☐ Cigar attempts to repeat his success of 12 months ago in the grade one Jockey Club Gold Cup (Im 2f) at Belmont Park today. On the same card. Paul Cole's Posidonas and the

Dermot Weld-trained Definite Article tackle the grade one Turf Classic (Im 4f).

2.05 PRIX MARCEL BOUSSAC (Group 1: 2-Y-0 fillies: £105,402: 1m) (13)

1 12 RYAFAN 28 (G) J Gosder (GB) 8-11 ... L
1 2 RYAFAN 28 (G) J Gosder (GB) 8-11 ... Pat
3 134 GREEN LADV 21 (G) A Fabre 8-11 ... D
5 1310 SPRING DANCE 43 (G, S) P Bary 8-11 ... G
6 111 BLANCA NEPA 28 (F, S) D Loder (GB) 8-11 ... G
7 113 RAWAL 21 (G, S) J de Rozale 8-11 ... C AN
8 312 DISSERTATION 21 (S) Honcale 8-11 ... C AN
9 110 FAMILY TRADITION 28 (G) A O'Breen (fire) 8-11 O Pesiler G Mossa _ K Darley 5-2 Bianca Nera, 5-1 Ryaten, 6-1 Shipera Summal, 8-1 Dessertation, Dance Parade 10-1 Green Lady, Dame D'Hanerd, Yashmak, 12-1 othes.

ONGCHAMP BBC2

3.10 D. H. WELTON & CO HANDICAP (£6,031: 6f) (24)

(25) 1- 07 (27) 14 (27) 15 (16) 17 (27

P Roberts, (S) 154
416 5000 BOLLEN HARRY 15 (D,F,G) T Exterby 4-9-3... M Birch 3
417 2113 LOUGH ERWE 24 (D,BF,F,S) C Wall 4-9-3... S Sanders 9
418 6140 MONTESERRAT 22 (Y,D,G,S) L Control 4-9-0... M Featon 5
419 0000 GANNOCK VALLEY 8 (B,D,F,G,S) J Barry 6-8-13 G Carter 4
430 2015 FRIENDLY BRAVE 11 (D,F,G,S) Miss 6 Kelleway 6-8-13

3.40 SAINT-CLOUD LIMITED STAKES (£3,139: 1m 2f 120yd) (16)

(2.0, 133. 111 ct. 1 cv.) (107. 5) P Monteith 5-9-6 J Bramhill (7) 2
501 1404 BREAK THE RULES 6 (F.S) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-4 D Harmson 9
503 6000 MASTER BEVISED 7 (C.F.6.S) P Evans 5-9-2 ... K Fallon 1
504 -565 SHAMOON 35 F Watson 4-9-2 ... Dearn McCarre 7
505 /30- SURREY DANCER 368J (CD.F.6.5) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-2
506 CODMANA 18 /F C.S.1 --- Montein 4-0-1 J Grann 13 | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supplementable | Supp

4.10 MAISONS-LAFFITTE HANDICAP (£5,823: 3-Y-0: 1m 30yd) (12)

3-1 Jo Meli, 9-2 Rebel County, 6-1 Trainiger Lady, Vitaming Trends, 8-1 others

4.40 DEAUVILLE MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 2-Y-O: £3,046: 7f 30yd) (11)

C-Y-U: 2.5,U40: 71 SUY(1) (11)

DAMEL DERONDA P Hants 9-0 ...

DRIMSOR PENICE A Lands 9-0 ...

DURSTON GOLD P Beem 9-0 ...

RITIME PERFECT MY Besterby 9-0 ...

4 KALOUSION 4 W Elsey 9-0 ...

5 KENNEMARA STAR 38 J Davlap 9-0 ...

0 PROPELLANT 30 C Thombor 9-0 ...

D SAND CAY 28 Harmon 9-0 ...

TITATINGA M Stouts 8-9 ...

0 MURRAY CREY 18 E Weynes 8-9 ...

0 MURRAY CREY 18 E Weynes 8-9 ... 7-4 Rahnga, 5-2 Yernemera Star, 7-2 Medabari, 8-1 Sand Clay, 12-1 olbers **KEMPTON PARK**

2.10 Typhoon Lad. 2.40 Greenback. 3.15 Vicosa. 3.50 JIMMY'S CROSS (nap). 4.20 Captain Khedive. 4.50 Hunters Rock.

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO FIRM (HURDLES)

2.10 CHILDREN'S CHOICE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,898: 2m) (10 runners)

BELOW THE RED LINE 44F Mrs N Macadey 10-10 D Gallagher CANONS PARG 398F I Balding 10-10 J Deborm ORANSE DODER 29 (85) J White 10-10 N Williamson SCL DIERR BLUE 9F P Hobbs 10-10 A P McCon TRUANCY 15F C Mann 10-10 J Railbot TYPHICON LAD 12F S Dow 10-10 A Debos 20 HOW COULD-1 fo (8) Mrs N Macauley 10-5 A Mag KALAO TILA SSF J Farshave 10-5 PF F TALLIE AN BBLE # 7N Utmoden 10-5 MR Histo P WATER MELSIC MELODY SZ T Gressbead 10-5 W Humphin 5-2 Camere: Park, 7-2 Cleange Order, 4-1 Natao Tua, 5-1 Soldier Blue 7-1 Truancy, 10-1 Typhoon Lad 12-1 others

2.40 staines news & leader novices chase

1 0-21 CB.BATE 22 (D.F.G.S) C Mann 5-11-9 J Raikton 2 6422 CAXTON 15 (BF.F.S) J White 9-11-4 N Williamson 3 2-40 HOLY WANDERSR 16 (F.G.) T Beorge 7-11-4 . . . G Hogan (3) 4 071 (GREENBACK 488F (F.G.S) P Hobbs 5-11-3 . . . C Liberallyn 5 443- MEGHT IN A MULLION 132 S Woodman 5-11-3 J F Titley 7-4 Greenback, 9-4 Holy Wandexer, 11-4 Celibale, 8-1 Night in A Million. 12-7 Caston.

3.15 SUNDAY RACING HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,788: 3m) (5) 1 421- STRAIGHT TALK 148 (D.F.G.S) P Netholks 9-12-0 A P MicCoy 2 11-1 FACTOR TEN 119 (F.G.) Mess H Knight 8-10-13 J F Titley 3 053- BAS DE LAINE 132 (C.F.G.) M Herzmand 10-10-10 MF G Booner (2 4 112- VICOSA 159 (D.F.S.) R Alger 7-10-7 _ P Healey (5 5 322- BiG BEN DUN 127 (D.F.G.S.) C Brook: 10-10-2 _ D Gallagin 2-1 Factor Ten, 11-4 Strangta Tails, 7-2 Bas De Lame, 9-2 Vicosa, 6-1 Big Ben Dun

3.50 www.racing.press.net handicap **iurdle** (£3.599: 2m 5h (6)

1 225- JAMAN'S CROSS 159 (F.G) 6 Batring 6-11-10 ... A P McCoy 2 2-31 AMAZE 6 (F.S) Lady Herries 7-11-6 ... Mr R Thornton (7) 3 231- CAVINA 199 (F.S) N Gattern 6-11-3 ... G Bradley 3 -12 BLASKET HERD 24 (B.F.S) Mrs S Williams 8-11-0 N Williams 5-10-10 M Richards 5 140- MR COPYFORCE 9F (6) Mrs 8 Sandars 6-10-10 M Richards 6 PS-3 CABOCHON 20 (G.S) Juccept 9-10-4 C Lievellyn 2-1 Arraza: 11-4 Cavma, 7-2 Mr Copyliotoe: 9-2 Jimmy's Cross, 6-1 Blaster Hero, 8-1 Cabochen.

4.20 KEMPTON PARK HANDICAP CHASE (£4,429: 2m 41 110yd) (4)

324- SCHMOT 127 (D.F.G.S) K Balley 8-11-13 J Osborne -211 CAPTAIN K-BEDNE 3 (C.F.G.S) P Nicholis 8-11-9 P Hide 15-2 CONTI D'ESTRUAVAL 40 (D.BF.F.G) G Batcing 6-11-1 a P Metron A P McCoy 4 231- SUPER TACTICS 158 (CD,G,S) R Ainer 8-10-9... P Henfey (5) 4 Captain Khedive, 2-1 Costi D'Estrivel, 3-1 Super Techcs, 9-2 Glemot.

4.50 KIDS FREE NOVICES HURDLE

040. 211) (12)
220. ATH CHEANNAITHE 139F J Noville 4-10-12 ... D Bridgwater
020. ATH CHEANNAITHE 139F J Noville 4-10-12 ... G Stadley
120. HUNTESS BOCK 373 p; 18 Salley 7-10-12... A Thornton
50. 4A2M 11F M Madgerick 6-10-12 ... B Fention
MARRIAGAR 50F Jamile Poulton 4-10-12 ... MF P O'Reeffe (7)
040. MAZZEM 144 R Rome 5-10-12 ... L Aspad 6-10-12 ... P Holley
30G- SAMAKA HARA 222E Gareene Re 4-10-12 ... N Williamson
0-20 WANSTEAD 23 (8) J Junistes 4-10-12 ... A Medical Color of the 9-4 Hunters Rock, 7-2 Polo KR, 9-2 Jazzim, 6-1 Alth Cheannaithe, 8-1 Warstead, 10-1 Samoko Hara, 12-1 Mazznil, 14-1 Mannagar, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRABGERS: Lady Harms:, 4 winners from 11 numers, 36.4%; R Almer, 7 from 21, 33.3%, P Histoolfs, 4 from 12, 33.3%, Mass H Knight, 8 from 35, 22.9%, K Balley, 10 from 46, 21.7%, P Hobbs, 5 from 43, 11.6%,

☐ Sensation (Walter Swinburn) and Shake The Yoke (Eddie Delahoussaye) represent France in the grade two Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup (Im II) at Keeneland today. KELSO

THUNDERER 2.30 Monaco Gold, 3.00 Royal Surprise, 3.30 Ballpoint, 4.00 The Yank, 4.30 Valiant Dash, 5.00 Prizefighter.

GOING: FIRM

2.30 RADIO BORDERS NOVICES HURDLE

(£1,884: 2m 2f) (8 runners) 7-4 Fatehaldren, 5-2 Commander Gien, 7-2 Monaco Gold, 5-1 Beau Mateiro 8-1 Grandense, 12-1 I'm The Man, 16-1 others.

3.00 HIGHLAND PARK 12-Y-O SINGLE MALT

NOVICES CHASE (£2,125: 3m 1l) (8) OP-0 BRIGHT DESTRAY 11 / Soldie 5-10-9 ... 6 Cable 0
00-6 MSS LAMPUCHT 10 F Menagh 6-10-7 ... A Dobbe
ther Budge, 7-4 German Levens 5-10-9 ... A Dobbe 5-4 Tighter Budget, 7-4 German Legend, 5-1 Royal Surprise, 8-1 Mics Lamplight, 12-1 Tony's Feetings, 16-1 others

3.30 MACALLAN 10-Y-O SINGLE MALT JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-0: £1,856: 2m 110yd) (7)

22 NERNOF 34 (B.BF.) M Hammond 11-3

1 N A TUZY 15 (P) P Histern 10-12

BALLPOINT 19F 6 Moore 10-10

COTTAGE PRINCE 23 J Ourn 10-10

D BURD BORRESS 15 T Easterly 10-10

RAGTINE COWNINT. 7D Notan 10-5

SHE'S SMAPLY GREAT 36F J O'Nedl 10-5 9-4 Cottage Prince, 3-1 in A Tizzy, 7-2 Kennof, 4-1 Ballpoont 8-1 Euro Express, 12-1 She's Simply Great, 16-1 Raptime Congret

4.00 FAMOUS GROUSE HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,404; 3m 1f) (4) 1 1123 ROYAL VACATION 22 (CD,BF,F,G) G Moore 7-11-10

J Callagean

2 2213 THE YANK 16 (B,BF,F,G) M Hammond 10-11-3 ... R Gardin 1 1123 ROYAL VACATION 22 (LU,DOT, J.)
2 2213 THE YANK 16 (B,BF.F.G) M Hammond 10-11-3 ... R Gardby
3 3-P0 OFF THE BRU 11 (CD.F.G.S) Mrs S Bradburne 11-10-6
Mr M Bradburne (7)
K Johnson -5 Royal Vacation. 6-4 The Yank, 8-1 Off The Bru, 12-1 Upwell

4.30 COOPERS & LYBRAND HANDICAP HURDLE

(Amateurs: £2,318. 2m 6f 110yd) (9) 1 -133 RED JAM JAR 15 (F,S) S 804 11-11-10 N Wilson (S)
2 -321 VALIANT DASH 10 (F,S,S) J Gotde 10-11-5 O McPtad (7)
3 35-3 SALLINDOD 41 (f) R Amson 7-11-1 R Amson (7)
4 06-2 JABARDOT 10 R McCletts 7-11-0 R Hales (5)
5 460- BRIDLE PATH 156 (G) T Exterby 5-10-11 (K Wheten (3)
6 006- TALL MEASURE 131 (B,C,F) D Swindlehurst 10-10-10 D Swindlehurst (7)

7 P-FF ANOTHER RICK 43 (F) J Habbuck 10-10-8 Miss P Roleon (7) 8 -255 YACHT CLUB 16 (0.F) J Eyre 14-10-2 Miss A Armage (7) 9 P-SP LAURIE-0 2 (B.F.S.S) D Lamb 12-10-0 . . . J Daviss (7) 3-1 Valtani Desh, 7-2 Red Jam Jar, 4-1 Jabarool, 6-1 Bridi 10-1 Tall Measure, 12-1 Yacht Club, 20-1 others.

5.00 BUNNAHABHAIN 12-Y-O MALT HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,248: 2m 110yd) (7)

1 0124 BIRES 15 (D.F.GI Mr. J Brum 5-12-0 B Gestim (7)
2 01-1 PRICEMENTER 16 (D.P.) 1 Pro 5-11-10 ... D Pours
3 15-3 DESERT FIGHTER 9F (F) Mr. M Revelsy 5-11-9 P Mive
4 335P VANN PRINCE 10 (B.CD) F.G.5 N Trailer 9-11-4 R Garmity
5 3-54 WELL APPOWITED 15 (F) 8 Machaguar 7-10-13 B Starry
6 634-5 TYLISH NITEMAN 1.32 N Wappond 4-10-7 Richard Great
7 - 304 RICHMOND 15 (D.F.G. Mrs. 2 Green 8-10-2 Mr K Wheten (3)

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveloy, 32 winners from 105 nangers, 30.5%, Mrss L Russell, 3 from 14, 21,4%, 6 Moore 10 from 49, 20.4%, M Harmond, 14 from 78, 17,9%, N Textler, 3 from 21, 14.3%, Only qualifiers JOCKEYS: P Neso, 43 eumers bram 11) rates, 38 7%, A Dobbat, 25 from 122, 20.5%, M Molomey, 11 from 56, 19.6%, A Thomson, 9 from 46, 19.6%, J Callaghan, 9 from 46, 19.6%, P G Calult, 3 from 20, 15.0%.

BUNKERED FIRST TIME TOMORROW: Haydock Peric 235 Bechstern 3 10 Garnock Valley 4 10 Sualtach, Kempton Park: 210 How Could-1 4.50 Wanstead



a Classic tale of temptation and vice...

She seduced me, the first time I saw her. And every time since. God knows - she's temperamental, demanding -

I couldn't say how much money I've spent on her over the years. My wife would kill me if she knew.

I've tried to stop myself, but I just can't - because when we glide down the street together and everybody stops and stares, I feel like a king. Of course, they don't even notice me, but I don't care, and that's my problem - I can resist everything except temptation.



RUGBY UNION

Pragmatic approach appeals to Gibbs as he makes history

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN ROME

SCOTT GIBBS will become the first British player to make the journey from international rugby union to the equivalent status in rugby league and back again to union when he runs out at the historic Stadio Olímpico here today. Not that history seems much on Gibbs's mind. For him, rugby has been a job of work for three years and, even in the colours of Wales, that does not change.

the Swansea centre, picking up his union career after a well-paid hiatus with St Helens, will win his 21st cap against Italy. During his absence Wales have played 31 internationals and have not obviously improved the status they occupied before Gibbs left, an inference he may correctly draw given the speed with which he has been restored to the national side

THE difference between the haves

and have-nots in the first division

of the Courage Clubs Champion-

ship is starkly illustrated by the

meetings this weekend between

the moneyed leading pair and the

breadline bottom two: Harlequins

saying Orrell and Wasps visiting houcester.

have faced nearly all the strongest

sides so far, while Harlequins'

fixture list has been strangely

benevolent. Their meeting at the

Stoop today suggests only one

likely outcome before the league

shuts down, until October 31, for

Robbie Paul, the New Zealand-

born Bradford rugby league scrum half, impressed at Swansea

in midweek and gets a further chance at centre for Harlequins

today in partnership with Gary Connolly. This match should be a

truer measure of his considerable

talents. Meanwhile. Will Carling

will try to add to the feeling that

England could do worse than

select him at stand-off half for the

Like Orrell, Gloucester are with-

out a win. They entertain Wasps

tomorrow and have opted for

Nathan Carter, a local boy, at

flanker, in preference to lan Smith,

the Scotland international. Despite

their unbeaten record, a worry for

wasps is that they have conceded more tries than they have scored.

In the week that he was nominated

for the enlarged England training

squad, Will Green returns at prop

for the London club.

match with Italy next month.

European commitments.

To compound matters, Orrell

Swansea. He may soon be joined by other prodigals - Richard Webster, the Bath slanker, and David Young, the Cardiff prop. The management have had

faith in me and it's up to me to repay that," Gibbs, 25, said yesterday after a team had been an-nounced showing six changes of personnel from the XV beaten 40-33 by France last month. When you pull the red jersey on you feel a lot better . . . but history doesn't mean that much. I want the win bonus on Saturday, then back home

So much for romance. For a player such as Dufydd James. playing his first full international, today will mean much more. The Bridgend wing was capped against Australia as a replacement during the summer but now appears in a after only six appearances for team robbed by injury of Ieuan

Northampton, in fourth place,

need to make hay at home for a

fifth time in six games at the expense of Sale, who may or may

not have John Mitchell, their New

Zealand director of rugby, on the pitch. The Department for Educa-

tion and Employment says Mitch-

ell has not been cleared to play.

and the Rugby Football Union

agrees. Mitchell has a work permit

London Irish. two weeks ago.

Sale are tiring of the red tape.

"In the event he plays for Sale, the club is satisfied of the legal entitlement for him to do so."

Howard Thomas, their chief exec-

utive, said. Up until last night,

Mitchell was still pencilled in at blind-side flanker. For Northamp-

ton, Martin Hynes returns to the

front row after a six-week ban and

Bath and Leicester, the leading

two clubs last season, need to

make up lost ground against lowly

opposition. The champions visit

London Irish without Henry Paul,

who is learning his trade at full

back in the second team. An elbow

operation forces Gary Halpin, the

trish captain, to miss his first game

of the season. Liam Mooney

switches to tight-head prop. Leicester travel to West Hartlepool

with Martin Johnson doubtful

because of a damaged neck. Neil

Fletcher stands by. The home side give a debut to Craig Hart, another of their Welsh recruits, in place of

Chris Murphy, who is injured.

Nick Beal reverts to full back.

needs investigation.

to coach but not play, in which case his 16-minute appearance at

Cuttitta, their captain, said.

In the past lour years their City institutions ready to encounter poverty BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

go Dominguez

have received a much more favourable draw for the 1999 Rugby World Cup that was announced yesterday: they are seeded in pool D, alongside the leading qualifier from the American pool - probably Argentina or Canada — the third-placed Pacific country and the sixth-placed Euro-

Though the qualifying positions of England, Scotland and Ireland will not be known until November 1998 there is a possibility of England joining New Zealand in pool B. The two nations met in the opening game of the 1991 tournament. South Africa, the holders, head pool A, while it is reasonable to assume that Australia will head the Pacific qualifiers and become the leading country in pool E.

TALY: M Ravaczolo (Calvasano), P Vaccari (Calvisano), S Bordon (Rovigo), I Francescato (Treviso), L Menteri (Treviso), D Dominguez (Milan), A Troncon (Treviso); M Cuttitta (Milan, ceptain), C Ortandi (Milan), F Properd Cutti (Milan), A Sgotton (Treviso), P P Pedroni (Milan), D Scaglia (Treviso), O Arancio (Milan), C Checchinsto (Treviso), O Arancia (Mitan), C Checchineto (Treviso).

WALES: W T Proctor (Lianeti); S D Hilli
(Cardill), G Thomas (Bridgend), I S Gibbs
(Swarsse), D James (Bridgend); N R Jankins
(Pontypridd), R Howkey (Cardill), C D Loader
(Swarsse), J M Humphreys (Cardill, captain),
J D Davies (Neath), H T Yaylor (Cardill), G O
Llewellyn (Harlequirs), D Jones (Cardill), K P
Jones (Ebbw Vala), S M Williams (Neath). Referee: C Spannenberg (South Africa).

Evans, Nigel Davies and Mike Voyle. The management contemplated change at half back, too, but given the number of enforced switches elsewhere, decided to leave Neil Jenkins and Robert Howley in place.

For the development of this Wales team, in which Gareth Liewellyn makes his liftieth appearance, victory is essential but no more so than for Italy, for whom this is the first of six significant internationals this winter. They play each of the five nations whose championship they feel they are entitled to join - as well as Australia on October 23 and have set a minimum target of three victories. "We want to prove we can play good rugby and compete with the best teams," Massimo

results show how the gap on Wales is closing: from 43-12, to 29-19 and, last January, 31-26 - all in games played in Cardiff. On their own territory, the Italians, drawn effectively from the two best clubs, Treviso and Milan, will not be easily subdued, though they lack the recent match practice enjoyed by Wales against the French and the Barbarians. Italy give a first cap to Leonardo Manteri on the wing though, at 28, he is a mature player, in keeping with the general nature of a side that will be marshalled by one of the world's leading points accumulators, Die-

As host nation, Wales could not



Whitaker guides Elton over a fence on the way to winning the Danco Exhibition Cup at the Horse of the Year Show

Whitaker settles for diminishing return

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

WHILE his older brother, John, flew from Wembley to the Bremen Show in Germany yesterday to chase a £40,000 prize, Michael Whitaker was content to collect £500 in the Danco Exhibition Cup, the main event at the Horse of the Year Show yesterday. "I know it's not much money

but after my luck this year I'm just pleased to win," Whitaker said after he and Elton, his ten-yearold stallion, had relegated Guy Goosen, on Carat, to second place by a comfortable 1.67sec in the 24strong speed class. Although Whitaker was also

invited to Bremen - together with Nick Skelton and Geoff Billington - he declined because of a

shortage of horses. Midnight Madness, his former top horse, pulled a ligament in Aachen in June. Touchdown, lent to him by James Kernan, of Ireland, is recovering from a severe attack of

Two Step, Whitaker's present top horse, now appears fit after his poor showing in Atlanta where he was suffering from a pulled a muscle in his back — but Whitaker is using him sparingly. He pulled him out of the 15-horse jump-off for the Venue of Legends on Thursday night in order to save him for the rest of the show.

WEMBLEY DETAILS

championship prospect, finishingthird in the 1994 Glasgow Masters, but Whitaker realised his limitations six months later when the stallion found the jump-off for the Brus-sels Volvo World Cup qualifier "hard work."

"But you can't fault him as a second horse," Whitaker said. "He's fast and very careful." At the end of August he won the small grand prix in Rotterham. Yesterday he made light work of the 12-fence course.

Whitaker was out of luck later in the SGC Scaffolding Twin Towers Trophy, which was won in convincing style by James Fisher, on Renville, the runnersup in the Venue of Legends.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Grey hits out at officials

Games gold medal-winner, has see if the Malaysian authorities get criticised Malaysian officials who away with it." have announced that there are no plans to include events for disabled athletes at the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

The Malaysian organising committee has insisted that there is no obligation on the host nation to include disability events on the schedule. "It's disappointing because at other major events like the Olympics and world championships we do have the chance to compete on such great stages," Grey, the winner of the 800 metres wheelchair event in Atlanta, said,

"It would be great to compete for Wales rather than just Britain all

TANNI GREY, the Paralympic the time and it will be interesting to

Dave McCray, the chairman of the Athletes' Paralympics Committee, said that he was disappointed but added: "We are not clutching at straws. We only want events where the organisers are committed to doing it well."

Norman Sarsfield, the chairman of the Commonwealth Games Council for England, said that there was every intention of including disabled sport in the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002. The 1994 Games, in Victoria, Canada, had four disabled competitions - bowls, swimming and two athletics events.

ICE HOCKEY

League sets out its stall

so much publicity, very little has been heard of the other competi-Basingstoke tions in British ice hockey and, in an attempt to rectify that, the Premier League held its official launch yesterday (Norman de Mesquita writes).

It comprises eight teams that will play each other four times at home and four away. There will be end-of-season play-offs, in which the top four from the Premier League will meet the top four in the Northern Premier League, with semi-finals and a final during a weekend, to be held at a neutral venue. A five-man committee will run the league, with the British Ice Hockey Association responsible for

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship First division

International match llaly v Wales (In Rome, 2 15)

WITH the Superleague attracting refereeing, discipline and junior Basingstoke Bison, of the

Superleague, yesterday announced a three-year sponsorship deal with Pepsi said to be worth "a substantial five figure sum". It is a boost for the Bison, who take a two-goal lead into the second leg of their Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final against Bracknell Bees tomorrow. All four ties are finely balanced, none more so than the one in Cardiff today, with the Devils having beaten Nottingham Panthers 1-0 in the first leg. Ayr Scottish Eagles have a two-gool edge over Manchester Storm, while Sheffield Steelers lead Newcastle Cobras by three.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division. Andover v Petersfield: Trottcham v Windoorne; Whitchurch v Lymington WhistronkEAD KEMT LEAGUE: First division: Folkestone, Invata v Canterbury: Lordsmood v Turbindge Wells, Romesgare v Furness; Wookhech v Tiamersmead: HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division.

FOOTBALL Nucl-off 30 unless stated World Cup Qualifying group four (-) Latvia v Scotland (a) Daugava Stadium, Riga, 6 15) Qualitying group seven (-) Wales v Holland (at Cardiff Arms Park, 7.0) Qualifying group nine Nationwide League First division (1) Bradlord v Southend

(2) Charlion v Barnsley (3) Grimsby v Queens Park Rangers

" not including last right's match Second division (7) Brentland v Romerham (8) Bristol Rovers v Crewe (void) (9) Burnley v Stockport (10) Bury v Blackpool (11) Chesterfield v Bristol City (12) Gillingham v Bourne (13) Luton v Walsafi (14) Plymouth v Millwali (15) Preston v Peterborough (16) Wycombe v Nofts County (17) York v Waltord

" no: including task night is match SCRENTIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Paution R v Taunton Vauxhall Conterence

Bell's Scotlish League First division Second division (40) Brachin v Berwick (41) Dumberton v Ayr (42) Lungston v Clyda (43) Sterhousemur v Hamilton (44) Strannaer v Queen of South Third division (45) Albion v Monitose (46) East Stirling v Ross County (47) Forlar v Cowdenbeath (48) Caledonian Thistle v Arbroath (49) Oueen's Park v Alloa (49) Cueen's Park v Alice
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division
Ashlord v Meirhyr Baldock v Atherstone,
Chelmsford v Seisbury; Chellenham v
Crawley, Dorchester v Sudbury T, Gresley v
Cambridge C Helestower v Newport AFC,
King's Lym's Burton, Numeration v Hastings,
Sittingbourne v Gloucester: Worcester City v
Gravesend and Northier Middland ethiriston
Bedworth v Solituil Borto, Evesham v Suton
Coddealt T, Hackley T v Shapehad D,
Seaston v Dudley T, Pager R v Grantherit FC
Wanatcs v Tameroth: Rothwell v Reddict,
Stafford v Oraby; Stouthordige v Rendict I, Stafford v Corby; Stouthordige v Rendict I, Stafford v Corby; Stouthordige v Rendict I,
Santord v Corby; Stouthordige v Rendict I,
Santord v Corby; Stouthordige v Rendict I,
Santord v Weyston Southern division. Buchingham Town v Forest Gr. Cinderland v
Margans Circhester T v Beatriey, Cleredon
v Newport low Derdond v Weystouth,
Fareham v Enth end Betweeter: Florit T v
Fisher London, Hevanni v Yate, St Leonards v
Weston-super-Marie; Troubordige v Tonbridge
Angels: Wittney v Woterhoodle

FA CAFILSBERG VASE: Second qualitying round: Darleston v Brackley, Dunlank v Bocasar, Trundale v Barrow T; Bastall v Bolehall S; Witham v Mintees Blackstoner, Bourne v Sathon Weldon; G! Walvering v Newmarket; Stamford AFC v St Neete: Havenfill v Felicenham: Felicition v Neomeathet; losunch v Witocham; Histon v Norwich U: Writton v Warboye; Eynesbury v Bournam Platra: Samford AFC v St Neete: Havenfill v Felicenham: Construct v Southend Manner. Brightingsaa v Saseffram; Scham v Hanauch and Parkeston. Command bearings of Saseffram; Scham v Hanauch and Parkeston. Command v Braintner; Speiding v Sudbury; Lowestoll v Chesters, Melition v Hullandige Sp. Stamway v Tipree, Holbeach v Hullandige Sp. Stamway v Tipree, Holbeach v Hullandige Sp. Stamway v Tipree, Holbeach Serions w Honderston v Chesters, Sp. Register v Melition v Platrate, Vietnam Abbey v Cocklossers; Brache v Hillingdon Bour. Ting v Niling Sp. Registon v Hoddesston. Aveley v Horpenden, Barlongside v Rusils Mannor, Felham v Flackwell Hith: Clagton v Brook Histon v Handers, Barlongide v Platrate, Barlongide v Rusile, Mannor, Felham v Flackwell Hith: Clagton v Brook Histoner, Langbord v London Colenty, Potton v Beaconsteled v Rother, Barlongide v Platrate, Langbord v London Colenty, Potton v Beaconsteled v Rother, Register v Register, Langbord v Combarley, Epsom and Evel v Basthoume T. Eastburne U v Plingmer. Lawes v Chaffram; Goderning and Guildrich v Deal, Mile Oek v Southwelt, Charlester v Seisey, Langrey Sp v Egham; Celebord v Wick; Cray v Messham, Bedition v Stede Gn. Chipsterd v Rother w Honder Register v Register v Register, Southwell v Rothern, Farntam v Hondern, Faghern v Register v Register, Velebord, Velebord, Wellinghon, U Register, Southwell v Rothern, Celebord v Register, Celebord v Register, Celebord v Register, Celebord v Register, Selebord v Register, Parkerd v Register, Parkerd v Register, Parkerd v Regist tord v Hangey.
COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cobhain v Hartley Wintrey.
Netherne v Westlicki, Walton Casuals v Ash.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylectoury v Staines: Bishop's Stortford v Heydridge, Bromley v Carshelton: Chestsey v Hendon, Dagenhern and Redbridge v Kingstonean, Dutwich v Boreham Wood, Grays v Historia, Sutton U v Turrier, Yearding v Enthett, Yeovi v Handy First division: Berron Rovers v Abingdon T; Billencay v Leyton Pernant. Chesham v Utdyridge, Hannoton v Woldingham; Maldenhead United v Croydon, Marlow v Berkhamsted, Moissey v Tocting and Matchann. Thomas v Convey Island: Walkon and Henterton v Aldershol T: Whysiokade v Bognor Regis: Worthing v Baringstoke Second division; Berlong v Baringstoke Second division; Berlong v Baringstoke Second division; Berlong v Baringstoke LeAGUE: Premier division; **FOOTBALL** Kick-off 3 0 unless stated Nationwide League First division

Barstead: Cording v Wembley, Whemhoe v Megropolian Pokes, UNIBOND LEAGUE. Premier division: Acompton Stanley v Hyde: Bamber Bridge v Boston't Barrow v Behop Auckland, Blyth Spartans v Chorriey, Buccon v Prickley, Christy v Lancaster. Guseley v Colwyn Barr, Marite v Leek, Runcom v Gansbouogin, Spermymor v Knowley, Whashori v Afreton Prat division: Achton I v Farsley Cit., Droyladen v Bractica PR; Essavood 1 v G Harwood; Flidon v Workington: Grotne v Congleton. Hamograf v Curzon Ashton: Netherfield v Warfrigton. Radditie v Lincoln U: Stocksbridge PS v Atherton LR Whitely Bay v Mistock Town, Worksop v Leigh. ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Eagle I fremier division: Expressor v Ilord, Basildon U v East Ham. JEWSON EASTERN COUNTRES LEAGUE Premier division: Great Yammouth v Clacton, March v Halstead; Sudbury Res v Wisboch, Watton v Bury Town.

UNIVERSIDED SU pages HI v Preschauen and Telscomber. Horstein WKCA v Saltdeen. Whitelmank v Three Bridges

Durings of the state of the sta nesets v Preport Satord v Citrièroe
PEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN
LEAGUE: Frest chaision: Consett v WhitbyOurhant v Billingstant: Murton v West
Auckland: RTM Newcastle v Shitton.
Seahern Red Sar v Ounston Federation. Tow
Law v Chester-te-Stroot. TOMORROW

Bumham v Highworth UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE:

European under-21 chemplonship Qualifying group lour Latvia v Scotland (at Daugava Stadium, Riga, 10)

Crystal Palace v Shelfield Uld

LEAGUE OF WALES: Rnyl v Barry
FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE:
Premier division: Bray v UCD 13, 15, Shield
competition: Sent-limite: Galway v Arizone
(3 15): Limitand: v Drognoda (2.0)
FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Premier division:
Everlon v Doncaster (12 30): Riesson Tn v
Croydon (2.0). Liverpool v Milwali (12.0);
Travmere Rouers v Southampton (2.0);
Wembley v Arsenel (2.0) Northern division: Asjon villa v Bradont; Brone v
Notis Courty, Huddersleid v Sheffield
Wednesday, Stourport v Garswood St
Helens; Wolverbampton v Blyth Sparlans
Southern division: Bighton and Houle v
Whitehaws, Ipswer v Langlond, Leyton
Orient v Berkhamstad: Three Bridges v
Winbledon, Town and Courty v Oxford
United.
FA YOUTH CUP: First qualitying round: FA YOUTH CUP. First qualitying round:

HOCKEY MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pramier division: Beriord Tigers v Teddington (Holyhoud Leisure Centra, 1.0), Canterbury v Did Loughtoniens (Polo Farm, 1.0); East Censelead v Surbton Issent Hill 20); Havent v Reading (Hevani College, 2.15). Hounslow v Guidriord (Dutes Meadow, Chiswick, 2.0), Southgate v Carmook, (Roodmişeld School, 2.0). First division: Beeston v Isco (Highfelds, Notthingham, 2.0), Blueharts v Lewes (Highfelds, Notthingham, 2.0), Blueharts v Lewes (Highfelds, Notthingham, 2.0). Blueharts v Bourtwille v Oxford Hawks (King Edward's Grits School, Berningham, 2.30); Bromley v Oxford University (Priory Lessure Centre, Crpmgton, 10), Brooklands v Shelfield (Georges Road, Sale, 20); Constyr S Albans (Chigwell, 10); Doncester v Stoupport (Bernetthorpe, 20), Ediphaston t Trojans (Berninghern University, Ediphaston, 230), Firebrands v Warrington (Longwood, Brisch, 10), Gloucester City v Hartiseton (Megpies (Placik Court, 20), Hulf v Indian Gymidhana (Hull University Sports Centre, 20)

Courage Clubs Championship Gloucester v Wesps (3 0)., RUGBY LEAGUE Tour match Yorkshire v Australian Aboriginals (at Balfey, 2 30) OTHER SPORT

RUGBY UNION

ATHLETICS: Bupa Great South Run (at ATHLETICS. Dupa diesal south rout (at Ponsmouth)
BASKETRALL: Budwelser Leegue: Ches-ter v Newcaste (6 0), Loopards v Tharnes Valley (7 0), National Leegue: Merc First division: Plymouth v Cardill (4 0); Stockton v Broton (4 0), Wers v Gualdrod (8) EQUESTRIANISM: Horse of the Year Show foll Miscobbash (a) Wemblay)
GOLF: Motor City Seriors: Classic (a) The Warnfolshire, Leer Woolon)
ICE HOCKEY: Berson and Hedges Cup:

ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Quarter-finals, second teg: Ayr (4) v Mancrester (2) (5 0): Newcoste (3) v Stelfield (6) (6 30): Backnell (3) v Basingstok (5) (6 0). SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Eastbourne v Bradford (3 30); Scottish Monerchs v Cotord (6 30), Conference League: Burton v Streffield (3.0), Liningow v Stringbourne (2 30) Speedway Star Knockout Cup: Final, first leg: Liningow v Mickental (1.0). TENNIS: 1.TA satellite tournament (in Notinghem)

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn v Eventon (2 0), Liverpool v Manchester Umfed. FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Deny v Sigo (7 30); Home Farm v Bohemans (7.30) PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cachnacuddin v Ketth, Deveronate v Brons; Huntly v Fort William; Nam County v Elgo-Peterhead v Losslemouth; Rother v Forns Mechanics; Wick Academy v Bucke Thistia.

Mechanics; Wick Academy v Budoe Thisle. SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Ansenal v Mitteett: Charlion Ath v Tottenham Hotspur: Gillinghem v Fultam, Leyton Cheni v Ouerne Pari, Rangers, Norwich v Cambridge United: Southend v Portsmouth, Wetbrid v beswich West Ham v Chelsee. Second division: Brentord v Brighton and Hove; Bristol City v Bourne-mouth, Bristol Rovers v Bernet, Calchester v Wirthledon, Lutton v Chela United; Reading v Wycombe, Southempton v Swendon, Totterham Holspur v Crystal Palace. Eurikans v Lancing, Foresiers v Witelans; Boptonians v Chigwellians OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division; Glym OS v O Kingsturtans. O Meadonians v Lalymer OB; O Tenisonians v O Hamptomans

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: O Esthemelens v East Barnet OG, O Parmiertans v O Actoriums: Polytectrile v West Wicham West Wichtern SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior Management v Hale End Partield v Oto Findinesaris
SCHOOLS MATCHES fleck-off 10:30 unless saled) English Schools Fujitim Trophy: E Beriss v Andower: Gamsby v SE Undser, Manchedie v Stockport, Newcasie v E Notifumbersand; N Kent v Croydon; Ouse v v Meadstone (10:0), S Landon v N Heins (11:0), Sution v Bromley, Wigen v W Lanca.

RUGBY LEAGUE Fini v Great Britain (at Nadi, 4 30am) OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budwelser League New-castle v Crystal Palace (7.30): Birmingham v London (7.30). Harnel and Walford v Leicester (7.30), Thamas Valley v Derby Leicester (7.30), Thomas Valley v Derby B 0): Worthing v Manchester (8.0). Nestonal League: Merr: First division: Bury and Bolton v Covertry (7.30), Nottingham w Mid Sussex (8.0); Oxford v Lverpool (8.0); Westmirster v Ware (8.0) Women: First division: Barking and Degenham v Crystal deviation: Barking and Degenham v Crystal Palace (8.0); Issaech v Flarlesdon (7.30), London v Birmingham (8.0), Nottingham v Sheffield (6.0), Fibondda v Thamas Valley (5.30); Spetthorre v Morthampton (6.0). EQUESTRIANISM: Horse of the Year Show (at Wembley) GOLF: Motor City Seniors' Classic (at The Warwickshire, Leek Wooton)

ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Quarter-final, second log: Cardiff (1) v Notangham (0) (5.40), Superlangua: Shef-field v Basingstoke (7.0), LACROSSE: Shaphards Friendly Society League: Premier division: Boardman and Eccles v Cheadle Hume: Healon Mersey v Moorthorpe; Poynton v Cheadle, Stockport v Mellor, Timperley v Hulmelans. 8PEDWAY: Premier League: Bradiord v Esstbourrie (7:30) Challenge: Swindon v Coventry (7:30) Contentince: League: Berwick v Sittingbourne (7:0). Unlitingow v Sittingbourne (2:30).

TEMNIS: LTA satellite tournament (in VOLLEYBALL: Men: First division: Reabolk Liverpool City v Malovy Lewisham; KLEA Leeds v Potonia Esting: Crotion Sportsweathouse v Whiteleid: Wessex v Tooring Aquilla.

First division Bristol v Saracens Harlequins v Orrell (2.15) London Irish v Bath Northampton v Sale West Hartlepool v Leiceste Second division Third division Exeter v London Welsh Liverpool St Helens v Fylde Otley v Clitron
Reading v Morley
Rosslyn Park v Redruth
Wharledale v Lydney Fourth division north Birmingham/Solthull v Worcester Herelord v Aspatria Hereford v Aspatria Kendal v Stourbridge Lichfield v Manchester
Presion Grasshoppers v Stoke-on-Trent
Sandal v Nuneaton
Winnington Park v Shelfield Fourth division south

Barking v High Wycombe
Berry Hill v Chariton Park
Chellenham v Camberley
Hersley v Plymouth
Metropolitan Police v Newbury
North Walsham v Tebard
Weston-super-Mare v Askeans SOUTH WEST: First division: Britism v SOUTH WEST: First division: Britham v Marcianheact Glouester Old Boys v Barnataple: Launceston v Camborne. Matison v Bridgreater, Salesbury v Stroud: Torquay v Si lives. LONDÓN AND SOUTH EAST: First division: Besingstoke v Guildford and Godaliming: Hatlow v Esher: Old Mid-Whightans v Old Coffetans; Staines v Norwert. Sudbury v Thurnock; Sufban and Epsom v Southend, Wimbleton v Rublay MIDLANDS: First division: Burton v Belgrave; Camp Hill v Barbana Butts, Derby v Wolverhampton: Hindday v Whitchuch, Leanington v Westfeigh, Leighton Buzzard v Syston: Marcialid v Strickwood Park. Scuntinope v Stafford. Scurmorpe v Stanora.

NORTH, First division: Brastlord and Bingley v Macclesfield, Hull fontans v Wigton, Sedgley Park v Stockton; Tynedale v Broughton Park; Widnes v Brotlington; Wast Park Bremhope v New Binghton

Welsh League Second division Maesteg v Blackwood (2 30) Pontypool v Llandovery (2 30) South Wales Police v Abercynon THIRD DIVISION: Lianhuren y Narberth, Merthyr v Tonch; Mourrain Ash v Tredegar, Pyle v Penarth, Rumney v Builth Welts; Tenby United v Kenlig Hill. Tennents Premiership First division Beroughmult v Jed-Forest

Hewick v Currie Henci's FP v Melrose String County v Watsonians

Edinburgh Acads v Dundee HSFP Glasgow HK v Glasgow Acads Gala v Biggar Kelso v West of Scotland Third division Kilmamock v Selkirk. Musselburgh v Preston Lodge Peables v Glasgow Southern Stewart's Met FP v Kirkcaldy. Fourth division Glemothes v Gordomans
Haddington v Corstorphine
Hillhead/Jordanhill v Grangemouth
Langholm v Ayr

Irish inter-provincial championship Connacht v Leurster (at Galway, 2,30) . . Munster v Ulster (at Thomond Park, Limerick, 2,30) HOCKEY

HOCKEY

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchonans v Achlord Falehan iy Hampstead/Westminster, Gore Court v Winchester; Madenhead v Chrohester; Madenhead v Richmond v Beckenham: Spencer v Turbridge Welsk, Woking v High Wycombe: Wookingham v Wintbedon Flampshine/Surrey; Barnes v Wintbedon Flampshine/Surrey; Barnes v Welton and Welybodge; Cambrelley v Cushod, Portsmouth v Old Mid-Wingdeans, Onded v Petersfield: Old Cranlogham v London University; Goan v Blandlord, Dulwich v Andover; Cheam v Basngstok, Old Williamson, Espoin v Purley Kerd/Sussen: Achlord v Old Holcombelans: Betwedere v Old Bordensans; Betwedere v Old Bordensans; Betwedere v Old Bordensans; Betwedere v Old Bordensans; Betwedere v Old Bordensans; Betwedere v Old Bordensans; Betwedere v Old Bordensans; Betwedere v Old Bordensans; Betwedere v Old Bordensans; Betwedere v Old Bordensans; Betwedere v Old Bordensans; Betwedere v Old Williamsonlans; Backheath v Mid Sussex, Bognor v Lloyds Bark; Brighton v Sevennals, Herne Bay v Horsham, Middleton v Merden Russelt, Worthing v Tulse Hill Middlethers, Blucks and Otton: Gertards Cross v Backhell, Harrow v City of Ortord; Hayes v Ameritam, Lions v Surdour, Maxiew v Eastcote, Mill Hill v Slames, Milton Keynes v Newbury, CMT v Famitham Common, Photon North-Hern LEAGUE: First division:

Hampania viruliny, suspensional Hampania viruliny, suspensional Hampania visional Administrational Committing City visional Restrict League: Premier division At Bismop's Stortford v Chelmsford, Cambridge City v Dorenam, Cambridge Link v Sudhuly; Ipsinch v Colchester, Peterborough Town v Redibinder and Birnd, Premier division B: Bedford Town v Old Southendian, Bury St Edmunds v Istory v Mesteldit: Romford v Hunningdon, WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Balsam Leidesfer v Hightown, Chino v Ipsivich; Donoacter v Stought Sutton Canada Life v Trojans; First division: Bradtind Swithenbark v Bluehams, Otton v Bradunell, Sunderland Bedens v Chelms, ord Broedcak, Wimbledon v Canterbury Second division: Coll Loughtonians v Ealing; West Withey v Emmuth, Woking v Shelwood

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West Witney v Exmouth. Woking v Snewbod MiDLANDS LEAGUE: Akindge v North Stalts: Bedford v Crimson R. Hampton v Pickwick, West Brownwich v Kettering. NORTHERN LEAGUE: Blackburn v Liverpool. Poynton v York Sheffield v Chester; Welton v Cartisle.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: City of Portsmouth v Worthing: Hampstead v Dutwich; Horsham v Wynchrinore Hill. Peaching v Southampson: Tulse Hill v Winchester West LeaGUE: Bouremouth v St Austell; Cheitenham v Leoningler, Exeter v Recland Winthorney Column.

GOLF: WOOSNAM MISSES CUT AT GERMAN OPEN TO LEAVE SCOT ON VERGE OF TAKING ORDER OF MERIT

Montgomerie closes in on No 1 status

BARRING injury or multiple aberrations today or tomorrow, Colin Montgomerie is assured of becoming Euro-pean No I for a fourth consecutive year. His expected achievement was confirmed round of 67 in the German Masters at Motzener See Golf and Country Club, where Ian Woosnam, his only rival, missed the cut.

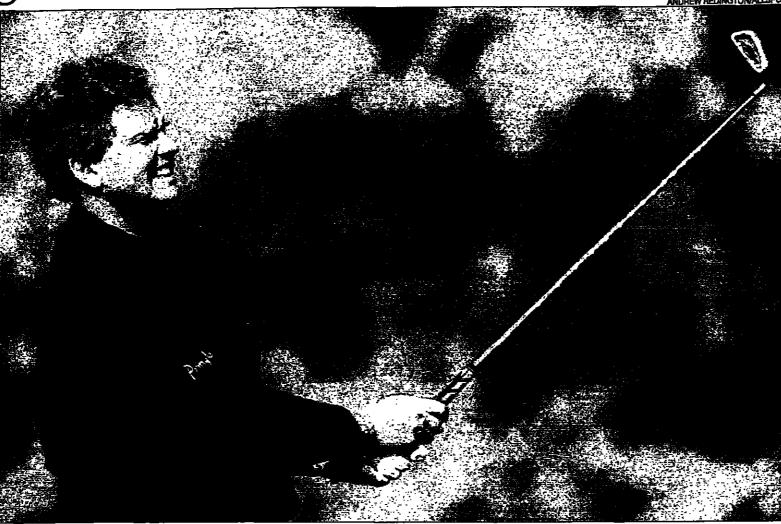
Montgomerie had an eagle three at the 525-yard par-five 2nd and six birdies to counteract another double bogey here: yesterday it was a seven at the long 5th, where he was in rough off the tee, pulled his recovery into a bunker left of the green overhit his sand wedge and then muffed his first attempted chip back onto

Now standing on 137, equal fifteenth at seven-under, he must finish in the top 40 to secure the prize-money of E4,313 that will place him beyond Woosnam's reach in the Volvo Masters in Spain.

Partnering Ernie Els, the South African who added a 67 to his first-round 68 to be equal fourth on nine-under, seems to agree with Montgomerie. "I enjoy playing with Ernie, he brings out the best in me," the Scot said: "Unfortunately, it seems to do the same for him! It's annoy-ing to have another double bogey, and but for that pair I'd be sharing the lead (with Paul McGinley, of Ireland on 133." Montgomerie, making no

mention of the European title while Woosnam was still on the course, was nonetheless glad to be in contention with the leaders. "Remember, I won the Irish Open this year after double bogeys and a triple bogey," he said. "I can't explain the mistakes, maybe it's a bit of pressure, the tension [of the European title]. maybe lack of concentration. You think you've got it right. then the game comes back and bites you. But if 67 is the worst I do. I'm not worried."

His domination in Europe is a tribute to the steadiness of his driving and long irons. and control of his once-fallible temperament. The ultimate reward, success in one of the four majors, must surely come for someone so consistent. Woosnam, who has hinted



Montgomerie plays a short iron to the green at the par-three 3rd on his way to a five-under-par second round at Motzener See

that his back injury may require surgery at the end of the season, ended his hopes of making the cut when bunkered at the 16th. "I putted shocking," he said, before hurrying off to the airport. My back's not too bad. That's

it. It's all over. I can go home," The other story of the day concerned the Ireland team for the Dunhill Cup next week, McGinley, Darren Clarke, on 134 and Padraig Harrington, on 135, being among the eight leaders divided by two strokes. Are they a week too early?

Clarke, who shared the best score of the day, 64, with Paul Broadhurst, hit 16 greens in regulation and had only 27 putts. Like Montgomerie, he eagled the second, a drive and seven-iron leaving a 25ft putt that he holed. Yet length was as much a key to his round as the greens. "With most of the

bunkers here, I can fly the ball over them," Clarke said. "I've been playing really well for three or four weeks, but the good putts weren't going down. Now they came all in a

Harrington hit the flag stick

Great Britain and Ireland Unless stated

LEADING QUALIFIERS: 133: P McGinley
66, 67, 134: D Clarke 70, 64: P Eales 67,
67, 135: M Moutand 66, 69: E Es (SA) 68,
67: M Campbed (NZ) 67, 68: P Hamington
8, 67: P Broedhuss 71, 84, 136: P Bister
66, 70; G Turner (NZ) 66, 68: M Davis 69,
67: M Farry (Fr) 66, 70; M Gattes 69, 67; N
Fasth (Swe) 69, 67, 137: J Coceres (Arg)
66, 71: C Monigomeris 70, 67; D Carter
89, 68; J Lomas 69, 68; T Bjorn (Den) 71,
66; S Tinning (Den) 69, 68, 138; P Mitchell
71, 67, M A Jiménez (Sp) 68, 70, G Brand
Jr 69, 69; J van de Veide (Fr) 71, 67; J Townsend (US) 68, 70, 139; A Coltant 68,
71; A Johnstone (Zim) 70, 89; M James
69, 70: J Haeggman (Swe) 89, 70, 10
Russell 67, 72, 140: M Joncon (Swe) 68,
72; S Lurin (Sp) 72, 68; P Price 70, 70; B
Langer (Ger) 71, 69; P O'Malley (Aus) 68,
72; C Ceveser (Fr) 68, 71.

at the 17th, the ball bouncing back eight feet, a misfortune that cost him a possible holein-one and a £60,000 Audi. The ball was probably travelling too fast. Other things worried him more. "There are five things I need to work on, which is four too many." he said. "I hit a lot of bad shots." And, presumably, many good

McGinley has previously won a tournament, though not of significance. "It would be nice to win with such a strong field," he said, after an outward half of four birdies for a Paul Eales, 33, from Royal

Lytham and sharing second place with Clarke on 134, is hoping to make this his second tour victory — a big boost for a steady, middle-order player who was 44th in the order of

ers in the UK, so we have tried

is performing beautifully.

to pull up our socks. The boat

very civilised. We are now in

the full nine-day menu cycle.

Breakfast of egg and potato pancakes with feta cheese and fresh baked bread rolls —

terrific, and nothing left over.

Supper will be sardines with

mashed potato and basil oil,

followed by blackcurrant

cheesecake, cooked by Paul

On board Commercial

Union, there was a similarly

upbeat mood. "Life on board is

pretty good, and spirits contin-

uing high," the crew reported

yesterday. "Hallucinations

about spirits of a different

kind — and glasses of sangria and cold lager — are prevalent

amongst the crew as we pass

No doubt in the weeks and

months to come, when the

crews are tested to the limit,

they will look back on these

early days as some of the most

enjoyable of the race. Yester-

day they were roaring along

on runs and reaches with up to

20 knots of breeze to power

them, and with most of the

boats averaging more than ten knots. As one of the senior race

officials said: "They've got 20

knots up their chuff and are going like hell, with dolphins

the weekend, with 15 to 20

knots of north and then north-

northeasterlies propelling

them towards the Equator.

which is about another 1,200

The forecast looks good over

all over the place."

the holiday destinations of

Portugal and Spain.

Stephens and Lyn Guy."

Life on board has become

Davies moves into the lead with hole in one

A HOLE IN ONE helped Laura Davies, of Great Brit-ain, take a two-stroke lead after the second round of the Takara Invitational in Yokoshiba yesterday.

Davies, seeking her second

victory of the year in Japan and her sixth overall, scored the hole in one with a nineiron on the 154-yard 3rd hole. Davies's round of one eagle, four birdies and four bogeys over the 6,204-yard, par-72 Caledonian club course left her with a four-under-par total of 140, two shots ahead of Ayako Okamoto, Ikuyo Shiotani and Takasu Aiko.

"It was my fourth career ace and the second one in Japan."

Davies, the winner of four tournaments in the United States, two European events and one Japanese title so far this year, said. Takasu had a 69 while Okamoto and Shiotani each shot a 71.

Caroline Pierce led the British offensive in the JAL Big Apple Classic in New York state, scoring a first-round 72 to finish one shot behind Dottie Pepper and Vicki Goetze, the leaders, who were the only golfers to make par. Pierce's compatriot, Trish Johnson, managed a 76, while Pamela Wright and Steph-

anie Maynor fared a little better, returning solid 74s on the par 71 course.

Ballesteros troubled by captain's lot id Miller hears Europe's leading

lament his restricted Ryder Cup choice

everiano Ballesteros. who succeeded Bernard Gallacher as the Europe Ryder Cup captain, considers likely that only defeat. through being prevented from exploiting the most suitable players, would alter the resent selection system. Bothered by his habitual

back problems, Ballesteros vesterday struggled to make the cut in the German Masters. He feels equally frustrated over his position as captain of the team that, next year at Valderrama, will defend the trophy regained so memorably at Oak Hill, Rochester, last

When a road has a dangerous curve, people try to get it altered," Ballesteros said yesterday, "but often there is no action until there has been a serious accident. Then people take notice. I made my request to the Ryder Cup

committee not long after I was appointed, that the captain should have more than optional two places at his disposal, but this was our luck' urned down. Yes,

maybe we must lose before it is realised that this can be an important factor. For the moment, the system is the system, and we take our luck. Some days it

rains, some days it shines." Several senior players, including Colin Montgomerie, believe that the whole team should be at the captain's discretion, rather than the top ten from the European order merit being automatic choices, leaving two places vacant. The United States team operates a similar system, but the Americans are not at the disadvantage of having leading players per-forming outside their own

Next year, Ballesteros's two optional selections seem likely to be Nick Faldo and Jesper Parnevik, of Sweden, both playing on the American tour. This would leave no room for including an established Ry-

Basketball: a sport to

get your teeth into

der Cup player, with experience of the unique tensions of the competition, who hap-pened to be outside the European top ten. With a competition that, in recent years, has regularly come down to the last two or three singles on the final day, when a half can determine the outcome, maximising selection possibilities is critical

Ballesteros fondly recalls that first victory on United Statessoil, at Muirfield Village in 1987, and the importance of the team's collective morale. "It would be wonderful to recreate the mood we had then." he said.

One of those who nearly missed selection last year was Ian Woosnam, out of the top ten and only included when José María Olazábal became injured. The Ryder Cup table is determined over a year's tournaments, be-

ginning with the 'For the moment, we must take

British Masters on August 28 this year and ending on August 31 next year. The argument for the top-ten system is that you get the players most in form. Yet this

takes no account of temperament for team matchplay, as opposed to individual strokeplay. The difference is immeasurable.

The Amercian system is based over a longer perio than Europe's, starting at the beginning of 1996 and lasting until the US PGA tournament next year. More important, it also gives added weight to performances in the three majors in the United

The problem with the European system is that it is determined, in part, by those with no real experience of play at the sharp end. The Ryder Cup committee of six is divided equally between represen-tatives of the PGA and the PGA European Tour, with the chairman having a casting vote. But the PGA representatives come from run-of-the-mill professionals.

tinue the game around the

corpse. This certainly did not

happen in Fife, when Jimmy

Hogg. 77, collapsed and died

of a heart attack after playing

his opening drive. The other golfers in his four, all long-

time playing partners waited until the body was carried

away. And then they carried

on with the game. "I'm sure Jimmy would have wanted us

Canadian leader defies the aches and pains

SAILING

Favourable conditions leave

leading crews in good spirits

By Edward Gorman, sailing correspondent

pass Berlenga on Thursday

night, is around 25 miles

ahead of Simon Walker, on

Toshiba Wave Warrior, with

Chris Tibbs, on Concert, close

behind him, but on a slightly

on Motorola, is holding on to

fourth place, but has Richard

Merriweather. on Commer-

cial Union, close on his heels.

In the pack there are good scraps between Nuclear Elec-

tric and Ocean Rover - who

are sailing about 70 miles

behind Golding to the west of

the fleet - and 3Com and

Heath Insured on the slower

member on Ocean Rover, re-ported: "We have had a won-

derful day hassling Nuclear

Electric and are 100 yards

behind them. We have tracked

them for over 48 hours. We are

8. Save the Children

First leg Southampton to

getting stick from our support-

Humphrey Walters, a crew

eastern edge.

Behind them. Mark Lodge,

more southerly course.

Golding, who was first to

By MEL WEBB

KEN FULTON did not expect much from himself in the first round of the Motor City Seniors Classic yesterday. The Canadian was in agony with a back injury, the weather was cold and inhospitable with a near-gale ripping into his aching muscles. Imagine his surprise when he finished the day with a one-stroke lead.

Fulton, 52, had a 69, three under par. that put him one ahead of José Cabo, of Spain, with Bill Hardwick, another

IN BRIEF

Holders

taken to

the 19th

REPTON, the holders, went

uncomfortably through to the

third round of the 34th

Grafton Morrish Tourna-

ment, played at the

Brancaster and Hunstanton

golf courses yesterday. Given

a bye to the second round.

Repton eventually saw off the

challenge of Uppingham.

Richard Hodgkinson and

Keith Andrews winning the

Last year's runners-up, KCS Wimbledon, starting in

the first round, also overcame

their first hurdle, defeating

Bancroft's, to set up a second-

round tie against Dulwich.

Cycling: David Millar, 19,

Britain's most successful ama-

teur rider in Europe this year.

has withdrawn from the time-

ships that begin in Lugano, Switzerland, next week. He is

trial at the world champion-

recovering from bronchitis.

Humby retires

Badminton: Alison Humby.

the Great Britain No 3, yester

day announced her retire-

Olympic Games and had a

Motor racing: Tyrrell, the

ment. Humby, 23, who represented Britain at the

world ranking of No 42, is

ending a 13-year career.

Tyrrell switch

vital match at the 19th.

who beat Bolton.

Millar out

three leading Britons were John Morgan, David Creamer and Malcolm Gregson on level par. Tommy Horton, the warmest of pre-tournament favourites, could manage only a 74 and Peter Townsend, making

senior appearance, a 78. Fulton, the Canadian PGA Seniors champion, owes his presence at The Warwickshire to a holiday he was taking with one of his five daughters in Scotland last month. The Scottish Seniors Championship happened to be

MIKE GOLDING has picked

the wind shifts better than

anyone else in the past few

days and kept his yacht,

Group 4, sailing at faster angles than most of the others

in the BT Global Challenge

fleet. He is still leading as the

yachts head southwest to-

wards Madeira. "A very

happy crew, as we cruise

along at the front of the fleet."

he reported yesterday. "Surf-

ing along under spinnaker in

The fleet is continuing to

spread out, with Golding now

about 170 miles ahead of the

backmarker, Time & Tide,

which was becalmed just

north of the Berlenga Island

waypoint, off the Portuguese coast. James Hatfield, the

Time & Tide skipper, reported

good-humouredly: "Our wind

machine is broken. Spoke to

God, he said he would ask

Chay [Blyth, the race director]."

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE LATEST POSITIONS 14

the sun."

decided to sample another course on stretch of the course.

the European seniors menu. muscle in his back. an injury picked up in Scotland, was giving him shooting pains. "At least there were no spasms, so I thought I might as well give it a go," he said. They clearly breed them tough in Bolton, Ontario, where Fulton is a partner in a golf course company. Having reached the turn in level par,

Canadian, a further stroke back. The on, he happened to have his clubs with he had five birdies on the inward nine, him and, having made the cut there, which is the longer and more severe

Also among the walking wounded He was not at all sure he would was Creamer, who was to be seen in make it all the way round. The torn the club lounge after his 72 applying ice to a strained left-ankle tendon. Creamer's ankle let him down on the fairway on the 16th, his 7th, but, brave soldier that he is, he plugged away manfully. It was no big deal, he suggested. He had had the injury before. Veterans these chaps may be, but they are a

HOCKEY

Crutchley quickly off the mark

By Sydney Friskin

SOUTHGATE and Cannock are prepared for a tight pre-mier division match in the National League tomorrow, each club having opened its campaign with a victory last week. Southgate's attack is unchanged, with Gibbins, Simons and Freeman forming the front-runners and Shaw and Attala in support as inside forwards. Injury will again prevent Soma Singh

Cannock have such depth in talent that they do not seem to miss the four Welsh players still involved in the World Cup qualifying tournament in Italy. Parnham, recently acquired from Stourport, has fitted in well at the back and Crutchley has recovered his scoring touch.

There are no surprises in the Surbiton team travelling to East Grinstead, who were pipped at the post last Sunday by Southgate. Surbiton had Notton, D'Cruz and Cook in attack at various times while achieving a 4-3 win over Teddington. East Grinstead continue

their dependence on Gibson to get the goals, with Bhatti in his usual role as playmaker. Luke Hodges, from the England Under-21 squad, has left Bournville for Teddington who will have Colclough back to lead the side against Barford Tigers. Laslett is not available for Teddington but it is hoped Hauck will be fit to play. The high-scoring potencould put Teddington under

ensitive readers are advised to close their

mouths tightly before reading this story. For it has been revealed that children in the United States are repeatedly leaping to the skies and getting their teeth tangled in basketball nets, with the inevitable result that the teeth get yanked out on the way down. The problem arises when

they try to mimic the slamdunking technique of the superstars of the game. The facts come from David

Kumamoto, clinical associate professor of restorative dentistry at the University of Illinois, who presented them to the World Dental Congress in Orlando, Florida. He reported 33 cases in which people aged from eight to 27 used a springboard, trampoline or raised platform to aid their leans towards the net.

Kumamoto explained that children launch themselves, mouths open in a yell of triumph, and meet the net facefirst. The average height of the tooth-losers was 5ft 3in. These figures represented, he said, the tip of the iceberg: he estimated that as many as 50,000 such injuries occur every year.

Hard to swallow

Sport is, indeed, full of hidden

dangers. In Italy last week, a referee was seconds away from choking to death on his chewing gum. Luigi Fedele, 22. was refereeing a game between Colico and Novate. After 35 minutes, he choked on his gum, grabbed a player and fell to the ground. A group of four, including players and club directors, at once surrounded him and opened his mouth - using the linesman's flag. A first-aider joined them and freed the poor referee's respiratory tract. "I had a cold and my nose was blocked." Fedele explained. "I was chewing gum because I needed the sugar. It was a terrible experience. I thank everybody. I wanted to carry on, but I was advised against it, and so I abandoned the match."

The big match

However, not all sporting injuries are dreadful. Demetrio Albertini, the AC Milan footballer, is suffering from a leg injury that has ruled him out of the Italy squad for the

On Saturday

World Cup qualifier against mighty Moldova today. As a small compensation, he is thereby able to go on his honeymoon. On Monday, he married Oriana Capona, a 22-year-old student.

Put on ice

Faithful readers will recall the fun that ice hockey fans in the United States had throwing dead octopuses onto the ice as a mark of esteem for the Detroit Red Wings. Now, the National Hockey League has banned the the throwing of all animals, living or dead, onto the ice. A sad day for Detroit: sad, too, for Florda Panthers, whose fans like to throw dead rats. However, when a player scores a hat-trick, they may, if they wish, throw their hats.

Dead on line There are plenty of golfing

stories about players who drop dead on the course only



to," one of them said. "He'd have done the same." Stark threat Militant action by football fans has been in the news of late, but the protestations of Brighton supporters seem rather tame when compared with the followers of Atletic Bucharest. On Sunday, the boys were trailing by the little matter of 16-0 and, with two minutes to go, their chances of pulling the game back were looking a little slim. At this, some of the supporters - the newspaper Evenimental Zilei suggested that they were gypsies - announced that, if the Atletic players conceded two more goals, they would leave

on for £10,000, by the Roma-Second helping

the stadium naked. The team

took this threat with some

seriousness: so much so that

they fled the ground with

those two minutes still left to play. For this, the club was

fined 50 million lei, or getting

A number of people responded to my pondering last week on whether any modern elite athlete had succeeded in a second sporting career, lan Henderson suggests John Surtees, who was world champion on motorbikes and then in Formula One. Mike Finlay suggests himself: "I played football for Old Minchendenians fifth XI, and have just had my golf handicap reduced from 28 to 26." Hauno Viinkka writes more in praise of the multisport athlete: "I knew such a man. He won the javelin gold medal in the 1948 Olympic Games. As he was already 33, he switched to archery. In the 1950 world championships he shared the team gold. Apart from that, he earned a good living as a singer and a film star. His name was Kai Rautavaara."

Formula One team, yesterday announced a deal with Ford for next season, bringing their Yamaha to an end.

ading man

The state of the s

the full answer to the modern ratical game. He chose Shear-et, sometimes isolating him but more often than not giving him an intelligent, but And the second of the second o not forceful, partner in the Teddy Sheringham mould. Yet the raw power, allied to mobility, of Shearer and Ferdinand has set Newcastle United alight since Kevin Keegan, in monied defiance, spent £21 million on them. Result: Ferdinand is on a spree of eight goals in nine games, Shearer of five in ten, two of them penalties. It is a double hammer that Gareth Southgate, the England defender in the Aston Villa back line last Monday, found

irresistible. "I know all about Shearer and Ferdinand from training with them at Bisham Abbey," Southgate said, "but knowing about them and trying to stop them are completely different things. They are the best 1 have faced at any time as a defender. They are power, and it's not Ferdinand coming at you, it's Shearer." Ferdinand, glowing in the

Wembley next Wednesday?

tribute from Shearer on Monday that "Les is really on fire." was succinct in his summary: "It's a partnership people said couldn't happen, but we are working at it, we both want it to succeed, and we are getting a few goals."

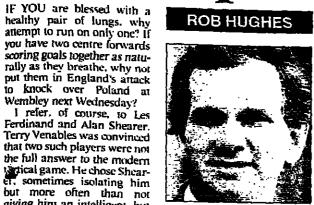
Goal-hunting in pairs is not new, and certainly not exclusive to England. Juventus won the European Cup last season with Vialli and Ravanelli: Milan are outscoring the rest in

ROB HUGHES

FOOTBALL

Hoddle's pair of

aces can unite



Weekend View

Weah: Germany won the European championship by finding, in Oliver Bierhoff, the scoring partner that Klins-

When Glenn Hoddle rook over from Venables as the England coach, he used Nick Barmby in the Sheringham role. Fine, it worked excellently against Moldova. But look at Barmby, a bantamweight. Look at the colossal strength of Ferdinand, the prodigious leaping power - it is a pint compared with a quart.

Since, with Newcastle, Ferdinand and Shearer have proved that they do not necessarily take one another's ground, now is surely the time to impose this marriage of force, of will, upon Poland.

I would suggest that, in the following England side, they would be admirably served: Seaman - Southgate, Pallister, Pearce - G Neville, Beckham, Ince, Gascoigne, Hinchcliffe - Shearer, Ferdinand. With Neville and Hinch-

cliffe, the latter chosen simply because he has the rare asset of a decent left foot, the service would come in from the flanks. With Beckham (or indeed with Le Tissier) they would have the early ball delivered over the heads of retreating Polish defenders.

to trump Poland And, when the time came, McManaman could offer the variation of running mesmeri-cally at Poland. This would

appear to be an England team of halance and potency. The harnessing of the best goalscorers in the land is as much an Italian trait as a British one. We are reminded of that by the news yesterday of the death of Silvio Piola. Piola, the scorer of 395

goals, including a record 290 Serie A. scored 30 times in his 34 internationals. In most of them he shared the attack with Giuseppe Meazza, who was the other coveted (talian striker of the day. Both were centre forwards, and pessimists said the partnership could not work. But with the strength and power and aerial command of Piola, with the nimbler running and intuitive skill of Meazza, work it indubitably did.

Meazza was content to concede the central ground to Piola, to drop off him in, effectively, an inside-forward position. And when Italy won the 1938 World Cup final against Hungary in Paris, Piola scored twice. However, one of that great man's goals was illegal. It came against England in Milan and was scored with the fist, almost half a century before Diego Maradona infamously repeated the trick against Peter Shilton in Mexico City. The Italians will wear black

armbands when they line up against Moldova in Kishinev this evening. They will field a team that has six changes from the one that proved itself impotent in Manchester against Germany, going out of Euro 96 after a goalless

Italy, still under the coaching of Arrigo Sacchi, will tonight rely on three centre forwards — Enrico Chiesa, Pierluigi Casiraghi and Fabrizio Ravanelli. Senor Sacchi has learnt: if you've got it,



The athleticism and commitment of Robinson, left, and Browning brought them to the notice of the Wales manager

Gould welcomes new age travellers

hen Bobby Gould took his first sip from the poisoned chalice of Welsh international football, he vowed to scarch the length and breadth of the Principality, and beyond, in an effort to unearth previously untapped talent. Anybody with an ounce of Celtic blood, or who had once holidayed on Barry Island, was apparently eligible for Gould's great

It was therefore natural that, of the 34 players Gould has tried since becoming national team manager 14 months ago. Marcus Browning and John Robinson should stand out in the crowd. Nei-ther has his roots in Wales -Browning was born in Bristol, Robinson in Bulawayo, formerly Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe - but their allegiance to the dragon is undisputed.

They also represent the way forward, as the old guard of Southall, Hughes, Rush and Saunders enters the twilight zone, and will be entrusted with implementing Gould's visionary plans. Tonight, when Wales play Holland in a group seven World Cup quali-fying tie in Cardiff, should provide the best indicator yet of their readiness.

Russell Kempson on the arrival of two promising talents in the Wales team

Though Browning and Robinson, both 25, share only seven caps, neither is likely to shy away from the glare of the European spotlight. They have been tutored well -Browning with Bristol Rovers in the Nationwide League second division. Robinson with Charlton Athletic, in the first division - and emerged

"I remember secing John play for Charlton against Wolves last season," Gould said. "I can still see him now; an effervescent little man - buzzing, committed, passionate."

Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, agreed. He bought Robinson for E75,000 from Brighton four years ago but it was only last season that the right-sided midfield player, or occasional full back, left his first-team imprint. The rewards - supporters' player of the year, a new four-year contract - rubber-stamped his progression.

"I got him as a young boy and he's now a man." Curbishley said. "He has pace.

stamina and is very versatile, very adaptable. He's been given the chance of playing international football and grabbed it."

Gould crossed paths with Browning much earlier, when he managed Bristol Rovers. He took on the gangly schoolboy, who was playing for Parkway Juniors in a local minor league, and began the polishing process from scratch. He was a super athlete," Gould said.

Browning s was never doubted. He failed two England rowning's endurance was never doubted. He Schools trials at cross country only because he wore football boots, not spikes, and Gould. then Malcolm Allison, years later, helped to nurture the skills. "He'll be a millionpound player one day," Alli-

John Ward, who succeeded Allison, first realised the conversion possibilities, from striker to central midfield, and Browning's fine-tuning contin-ued. "He's got all the attributes to get to the top," lan Holloway, the Rovers player-manager, said. "Every time he goes away with Wales, he comes back a bener player. When he mixes with the

Premiership boys, he wants to

be like them, he wants to improve. He's a strong, powerful lad," Holloway turned down a £200,000 bid from Wimbledon last summer, typical of Joe Kinnear's cheeky chancing. "It

was ridiculous," Holloway said. We've had no contact with them since." At the risk of ridicule, he forsees a Manhias Sammer role for Browning, whose maternal grandparents are from

Tredegar. If the Germans

were to get hold of Marcus.

I'm sure that's where they'd

play him in the future," Holloway said. "They get their best players and put them there, at sweeper. I'm sure that's where he could end up." Browning, unassuming at oft lin, is not so sure. He lives only for today and will let tomorrow take care of itself. "I spent a month in the United States during Euro 96 and watched only one game, England v Germany," he said. "I didn't see

Holland at all." This evening, at

the National Stadium, he will

get an extremely close view.

League investigates wider screening By JOHN GOODBODY

Premier

THE FA Premier League is investigating the possibility of introducing a pay-per-view system that would revolutionise the televising of football in England and widen still further the gap between the wealthy leading clubs and the

Rick Parry: the League's chief executive, said yesterday that officials were studying in French and Italian football this season. Sky brought in pay-per-view for the Mike Tyson v Frank Bruno boxing match earlier this year.

Digital television offers the possibility of supporters being able to watch all their club's matches without leaving

"Our policy has been not to have televised football screened live against other matches." Parry said, "We are certainly not going to rush into pay-perview. Some of the projections of the money available are fanciful. Ludicrous numbers are being banded about."

Parry, who was addressing the annual conference of the British Association for Sport and Law, in London, said later: "I remain to be 100 per cent convinced about pay-perview. There are huge questions still to be answered. We have a very good deal at the moment which gives a certainty of income. We don't want to cannibalise that income.

"We do not want to upset a very delicate balance in which there is some sort of equity in the sharing of revenue. This does not mean equal shares between clubs but does mean equal opportunity."

Maurice Watkins, a director of Manchester United, said that, like other leading clubs, United were looking at the possibility of broadcasting a magazine programme about the club that might go out on cable, satellite or as a pay-perview programme.

This is different from the pay-per-view of matches. We are looking to see how that works in other countries," he

Armenian threat

BY DAVID MADDOCK

GERARD McMAHON is a bright young man, his tricky wing play revealing a froughtful approach when it comes to football. His beliefs. though suggest that Northern Ireland have yet to learn a lesson that could cost them a place in the World Cup finals.

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Company of the

The North plays host this afternoon to Armenia in the second of their group nine games. Even at this early stage, defeat would virtually signal the end of the Irish challenge in a group containing Germany and Portugal. Such a precarious position

has been reached because Bryan Hamilton's side lost to the Ukraine at Windsor Park in the first match of the group. A largely unknown quantily had heen treated lightly with disastrous consequences.

Armenia fall into the same category. Little is known of the country that achieved its footballing independence only two years ago, and is still fighting a war to draw its own

GROUP NINE

RESULTS: Nombern Ireland û (France 1 Amienia û Portugal û

national boundaries. Yet McMahon's analysis of the match today suggests Northern ireland can again fall into the trap.
"We are confident," he said.

"We know that we need to win, and it doesn't really matter by what score, but 5-0 would be nice." Armenia have won just one of their 12 games since gain-

ing independence from the former Soviet Union. They did, however, draw their first qualifying match against Por-tugal. Thus, the alarm bells should be ringing for Hamilton and his team. It seems they are not for McMahon, of Stoke City, who seems likely to be in the starting line-up.

McMahon's wingplay is the type in which the North seems to excel and his presence gives them an exciting flavour. He will be employed in a forward position alongside Dowie, with Hamilton hoping to exploit his pace. Not that Khoren Hov-

anissian, the Armenia manager, is planning on defending. "It was a superb performance against Portugal, and we have no need to fear any side." he said. Hamilton, perhaps recognising the pitfalls more than his players, however, will reinforce his defence by drafting in Barry Hunter and

Irish risk disregarding Brown pinpoints stability as Scotland's first Baltic goal

FROM KEVIN McCarra in riga, latvia

simply too polite to shame their hosts. Faced with a World Cup qualifying match against Latvia here this evening, the visitors have con-fined themselves to the same modest resources as one of Europe's "new" nations. It is as if Scotland had dressed down for the occasion, leaving in the wardrobe such finery as established forwards.

The partnership in attack is still to be established, but one fact is certain. Whichever pair is chosen from the three principal candidates, Craig Brown's side will be fielding two forwards who have not scored a goal in international football. John Spencer, of Chelsea. and Darren Jackson. of Hibernian, each have a dozen caps; Billy Dodds, of Aberdeen, can at least protest that he has, until now, never played for his country.

Scotland's weakened state is no act of courtesy towards Latvia. It reflects only an unusual form of deterioration. With a combination of statistics and insouciance, Brown breezily reports that there are. on average, 5.3 withdrawals from each squad that he names. This time, however, most of the losses have been concentrated in attack. Of the five men to have been ruled

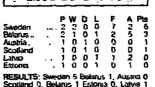
IT MAY be that Scotland are out, all but one, Colin Hendry, are forwards. Eoin Jess, whose father died yesterday, has joined Duncan Ferguson, Gordon Durie and

Ally McCoist on the list of those unavailable. Adversity, however, is the only climate that Brown has experienced with Scotland, and he remains unperturbed. "I feel a manager should be

pro-active rather than reac-tive," he said, "but on this occasion there have been so many changes that I feel stability is the best option." Apart from the replacement of Hendry by Derek Whyte, Scotland will deploy the same players in defence and mid-field as were used in the 0-0 draw with Austria in Vienna at the end of August. While Scotland should cope

efficiently with the second match of this tour, in Estonia on Wednesday. Brown is respectful of Latvia, who, unlike many emerging nations in

GROUP FOUR



football, have the means and intent to attack. Vitas Rimkous may only play in Germany's third division, with Nürnberg. but his record of six goals in ten internationals is one that more celebrated forwards

would covet. Scotland are also made anxious by the thought that their main rivals in group four, Sweden, won here last month, the 2-l victory being secured as a result of an error by Oleg Karavajev, the Latvia goalkeeper. Brown is not hopeful that

his men will be obliged with such a mistake. Lacking any overpowering flair, Scotland will depend on ringcraft. As Brown put it: "Latvia are not streetwise. Both of Sweden's goals here stemmed from near-post headers and, in McAllister and Collins. believe we have players with the delivery to get the right kind of cross into that area." There will be fixtures ahead

with far more lustre, but as Scotland attempt to keep pace with Sweden, their match here may prove one of the most significant of the campaign.

POSSIBLE SCOTLAND TEAM (3-5-2) A Goram (Rangers) — T Boyd (Cettic), C Calderwood (Totlenham Holspur), D Whyte (Middlesbrugh) — C Burley (Chesea), G McAllister (Coventry City), S McCall (Hargers), J Collins (AS Microsco), T McKlingy (Cethic) — W Dodds (Aberdeen), J Spancer (Chalsea)

Brighton over trouble

THE Football Association yesterday charged Brighton and Hove Albion with failing to control spectators during the Nationwide League third division match with Lincoln City at the Goldstone Ground on Tuesday, a game that was marred by three pitch invasions (Peter Ball writes).

Supporters protesting at the way the club has been run spilt onto the pitch twice after Lincoln scored during a 3-1 win and there was another protest involving about 50 people after the final whistle. In April Brighton's match with York was abandoned because of crowd trouble and a suspended sentence was imposed on the club.

If that is now invoked, they will have to play a match behind closed doors and lose three league points. "It is an option to impose the suspended sentence, but we will have to see what the outcome of the case brought against Brighton is," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said,

Swindon Town yesterday parted company with their coach, Andy Rowland, by mutual consent. Rowland had been on the first division club's coaching staff for ten years, but Steve McMahon, the player-manager, said: The club is now moving in a new direction."

FA charge Hodgson falls foul of fickle Italian taste

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

IN ITALY, Roy Hodgson is under fire, forcing his club president to ride to the rescue. Hodgson the Croydon-born manager of Internazionale of Milan for the past year, and previously a distinguished coach of Switzerland, has been astounded by a fusilade of criticism.

For Inter are, so far, unbeaten in the Italian Campionato, and came through the first round of the Uefa Cup against Guingamp, of France.

Working successfully in Sweden before he went to Switzerland, Hodgson was nevertheless unprepared for the volatile chaos of Italian football, its sudden, bewildering changes, the way in which today's hero is tomorrow's villain: and vice versa. Last week, at Inter's train-

ing ground in Appiano Gentile, he expressed his shock. "What have I done wrong." he asked, "if everybody seems to want my head? I've seen, I've heard. I've read so many things about me in these weeks.

"I thought Inter were working well, seven competitive games without defeat, a single loss in 17 games, including friendlies. Yet I've been put on trial, a trial which is incredible. Perhaps I'm naive, but if all this comes from Inzaghi's goal at Bergamo [Atalanta's 86th minute equaliser in the match last Sunday I don't understand any more."

Massimo Moratti, Inter's president, rushed to the training ground to give Hodgson his public support. Hodgson said he was sorry that Moratti had had to leave his office. He was happy that the president had spoken so well of him and assured him of Inter's complete confidence.

"I've been in football for 20 years," Hodgson said, "but I've never lived through a situation like this, this wave of criticism, rumours, strictures about myself, even lies, such as saying I tried to get a renewal of my contract Jwhich runs to 1997 and that Moratti had refused."

When he arrived from Switzerland. Hodgson revived not only a struggling Inter team but the career of England's Paul Ince, whom he restored to his preferred midfield role. Inter, it is true, have not

excelled this season. New players such as Zamorano, of Chile, Ciriaco Sforza, of Switzerland and Djorkaeff. of France, have still to bed down. The loss of the brilliant young striker. Kanu, of Nigeria, with heart trouble, has been a fearful blow. Italian football. being what it is, however, one good win for Inter and Hodgson will be a hero again.

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FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group four: Estorba 1 Betarus 1 (in Tallim) Group nine: Ukraine 1 Portugal 0 in Nation FA YOUTH CUP: First qualifying round Tonbookge 2 Hastings 0 Holsham 2 Ashlord 4 SCHOOLS MATCHES; Inter-fount chall-enger Rotherhum 4 Doncaster 1 English Schools Furdim Trophy, Ipawich 1 Baerdon 1 (art)
TALIAN CUP: Second round, second leg:

Perugia 1 Nocema 2 Nocema win 2-1 on aggi. Sampdona 0 Genos 2 (Genoa win 4-2 aggi. Sampdona 0 Ganos 2 (Genoa win a 2 on arg)
Shanish LEAGUE: Deporturo la Coruña 1 R
Valicano 1. Edismadiza 1 R Santander 2.
Valicina 0 Logiones 1: Cota Vigo 3 Onedo
1, Athletic Bilbao I R Sociada 3: Herrules 0
Bets 1: Barcelona 1 Tenente 1. Sporturg
Gijon 1 Compusiela 1: Volladolid 1 Zaragoza
1, Seete 0 Anticom Macrol 0
RRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Atendo Puranaines 1
Botalogo 0: Internacional 4 Vasco da Gama
1: São Paulo 4 Remenço 1
SOUTH ANERICAN SUPERCUP First
reund, second leg; Cruzero (Bri 3 Nacional
Urius 1 (Cruzero win 5-2 on aggi. Velez
Saradot (Arg) 1 Gramio (Br) 0 (Velez
Saradot win 4-3 on aggi.

BASEBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE: Play-offs: St Louis 5 San Diego 4 (St Louis lead 2-0), Los Angoles 2 Antania 3 (Altania lead 2-0)

BASKETBALL EUROLEAGUE: Berer Leverhusen 60 Cro-ata Spil 63 Ciboria Zagreb (Cro) 78 Alba Berlin 68 Botogra 93 Sentile 75, Maccabi Tel Aviz To Stotanel Mitan 65: Bes Pasen (Tur) 87 Dynamo Moscow 84

CRICKET Kenya Cup Pakistan v Sri Lanka NAJROBI (Sn Lanka won loss). Pakistan beal Sn Lanks by 82 runs PAKISTAN

"Saeved Arreire - Mahaname b Muralitham 1 Salm Earli e Muralitham 1 Salm Earli e Muralitham 1 Solm Earli e Muralitham 1 D Sc die Silva Shahid Alari e Muralitham 1 D S C die Silva Rame Ragie e Gunsanha b Muralithaman Solm Maile e Ramelunga b P A die Silva I Jos Ahmed at Valumithaman b Jayasumva I Mon hit nar e Dhummasenia b Jayasumva 1 Muralitham b Jayasumva 1 Jayasumva 2 Jayasumva 2 Jayasumva 2 Jayasumva 2 Jayasumva 2 Jayasumva 3 Jayasumva 3 Jayasumva 3 Jayasumva 4 Jayasumva 4 Jayasumva 4 Jayasumva 4 Jayasumva 5 Jayasumva 5 Jayasumva 6 Jayasumva 6 Jayasumva 6 Jayasumva 7 Jayasumva 7 Jayasumva 7 Jayasumva 8 Jayasumva 8 Jayasumva 8 Jayasumva 8 Jayasumva 8 Jayasumva 8 Jayasumva 8 Jayasumva 9 Jaya 23

Extres (10.7 w 17, no 2) Total (9 wkts, 50 overs) FALL OF WICHETS 1-80 2-188, 3-297, 3-299, 5-314 6-322 7-338 8-336, 9-364 BOWLING S C de Save 60-471, Vaiz 7-0-44-0, Chemiasona 7-0-48-1, Impositive 10-0-94-3, Muralingran 10-0-75-2, P A de Save 10-0-58-1

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A P Gunuschha b Waqur
P A de Silva at Mon o Saqilan
R S Maharama Iber b Waqar
A Ranabunga c Moin b Shahud Ahidi
B P Tilekeratine b Saqilan
H D B K Dhurmaseria c Saecid b Saqilan 51

W P U J C Vaes b Weger M Murelitheran st Moin b Saglain S C de Silva not out Edres (fb 10, w 12, nb 1) Total (49 5 overs) 268
FALL OF WICKETS 1-4 2-26, 3-27, 4-27, 5-151, 6-160, 7-270, 8-279, 9-279 SOME, No. 60:00-279, 92-79 SOME, NO. 60:00-279, 92-79 Southern, Mustriage, 10:2-33-4. Salmi Mash. 10:0-58-0, Shahira, Alfati, 10:0-43-1; Sosod Anwar 1-0-8-0, lips: Ahmed 3-0-14-0 Umpires | Robinson and R Tilfin (Zimbatowi)

TOUR OF PUGLIA: Third stage (Galippi) to Cotemaro, 212am) 1, F Cesagrande (h) Shi 38mm 38ecc; 2, F Guidi (h), 3, J Museauw (Bel); 4, F Puthri (Swinz); 5, S Cotage (h) all same time Fourth stage (Tranto to Manma Franca, 172mm) 1, G Lombard (h) Ahr 25mm 25eec; 2, Guidi, 3, 5 Cincochin (h); 4, Cotage, 5, M Piccoli (k) all same time Final deprail positions: 1, Guidi 19hr 48mm 56eec, 2, Casaga ande, 3, Cotage; 4, Puthri, 5, J Cotagesia (Sp) all some time

THE WARMICKSHIRE: Motor City Servors Classac Leading Bist-round scores (GB and to unfoss status) 68t. K Pulton (Cen) 70: J Cabo (Sp) 71: 8 Handwet (Cen) 70: J Cohor (Sp) 77: 8 Handwet (Cen) 72: S Volmati (Gen. D Crasmer, M Gregon, V Krajewski (US) 72: 8 Hagger, A Garrido (Sp), J Fourie (SA), B Verwey (SA), J Phodes, T Brize (SA), B Hum 74: S Atcheck A Croce (II). R Bernárdini (II), W Armstrong (US) T Honon, M McCrose, R Pader 75: G Gray, N Coles, R Bots (US), D McCan, N Ratellife (Aus.), R Vines (Aus.), B Carter, L Haggras, D Hulson, G Will, D Talbot, C Evans (US), B Worles, B Longworth, P Leonard 76.

J Wilkshire, T Grubb, W Sauer (US), F Hill, J Donesten (Holl) C Aldred, F Abreu (Sp), M Murphy, D Buller, D Simon (US)
PYLE AND KENFIG: British Women's Seriors Open: Leading final society 238: V hastest (Ennis) 78, 79, 81, 237: A Uselii (The Gerkstrof) 72, 75, 90, 239: T Wellii (The Gerkstrof) 72, 75, 90, 239: T Wellii (The Gerkstrof) 72, 78, 90, 239: T Wellii (The Gerkstrof) 72, 78, 90, 239: T Wellii (The Gerkstrof) 81, 81, 82: T Promiss (Holyhear) 84, 81, 82: R Ferrow (Si Necci) 80, 81, 85 G Pather (Workstop) 81, 77, 89: LAS WEGAS: Les Wegas Invitational burnament. Leading second-neural scores (US) unless (Jancet) 128: R Ferb 64, 62, 129: R Black 61 85; Ferb 63, 66, 131: P Stewert 63, 88; P Azinger 87, 64, L Janzen 86, 65, 132: D Ogrih 69, 63; X Forgus 63, 70: O Brown 66, 65, 130, D Love III 66, 87; G Day 66, 67; F Copples 66, 67; T Woods 70, 83; F Lichlites 66, 67, Other scores: 135: C Parry Lau) 88, 67, 138; D Prodt (SA) 65, 65, 160. CP-rrv Jaux) 88, 67, 198: D Froot (SA) 65, 71
MEW ROCHELLE. New York: LPGA Big
Appla Classin: Leading first-round scares
(US unless stated). 71; D Pepper, V Goetze
72, R Waston, L Fanier-Graham, C Pierco
(GB), R Hood, K Webb (Aus), C H Koch
(Swe), 73; M Zimmorman, L Rittenhouse, D
Egoeling, J Detanson, E Denset, B
Gunkowsky-Scherbek (Can), M Morre, L
Stoner Other British scores 74; P Minght, S
Maynor, H Dobson, 78; P Johnson, A
Micholos, K Maranell
YOKOS-HIBA, Jepan: Talcara Invitational;

HOCKEY SUPERLEAGUE: Ayı 5 Newcasıla 5

Marshall H. Dussel H. Marshall H. Marshall H. Marshall YOKOSHIBA, Jepan: Takara Imhalional: Leading second-round scores (Jopan unives stated): 140: L. Osnes (GB) 70, 70, 142: A. Tajeza: 73, 59; IShidara 71, 71, A. Okamoto 71, 71, 143: B. Hetheington (Aus) 77, 56: M. Herton 73, 70; N. Ac-Scok, IS Kor) 73, 70; K. Tschertar (US) 73, 70; F. Omate 89, 74
HUNSTANTON & ROYAL WEST NORPOLIK GC. Grafton Morreh Trophy: Pist round: George Watson's tot Stamiord 3-0; 9; Bees bi Loreno 2-1; Bedford Motiem to Roben Gordon's 2-1; Bury bi Toribridge 2-1; Cultord bi Bedford 2-1; Cunder bi Wannack 25:-5;

CAGLIARI, Italy: Men's World Cup: Prelimi-nary round: Pool A: Egypt 0 New Zeatand 1, Canada 4 China 1 Pool B: Bangladich 4 Scolland 4, Italy 3 United States 2 ICE HOCKEY

RUGBY LEAGUE TOUR MATCH: Hull and East Righing 30 Austration Abonginals 26 (at Hull) **RUGBY UNION**

RANFURLY SHIELD: Wakato 7 Auddand 27 (in Hamilton)
SCHOOLS MATCHES, Burnard Codile 21 (2014)
SCHOOLS MATCHES, Burnard Codile 21 (2014)
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SPEEDWAY PREMIER LEAGUE: London 40 Oxford 32 labandoned aliar 12 heats due to lonential rain — result stands)

TENNIS MOTTINGHAM: Satisfite tournament (GB untess stated) Men: Quester-finets: C Walneson to M Wyeth 6-2, 6-1; N Richardson to R Kosenj (SA) 6-3, 6-4; N Weel to F Powar (Sate) 6-2, 6-2. J Fox to A Partner 6-4, 6-4 Women: Sern-finets: I. Woodrotte bi H van Additen (Holl 7-5, 6-7, 6-1, 5 Finer (Swet bi J Lutrova (Russ) 3-6, 6-0, 6-3

LYONS: Men's tournement: Second round:
A Boetsch (Pr.) bit A Chosnolou (Russ) 5-7,
5-4 ret K (Aubera (Sloveka) bit Y et Ayrabus
(Moy 7-6, 5-2 T Herman (108) bit X Serremit
(Hol) 6-7, 7-6, 7-6, L Rour (Fr) bit C Woodsuff
(US) 3-6, 7-6, 7-6 Cuarter-finals: Henmen bit
Kucera 7-6, 6-2; Y Kalehikov (Russ) bit M
Gustafrson (Swei) 5-7, 7-5, 6-3. LEPZIG: Women's tournament: Second round: A Sánchez Vicerio (Sp.) M Oremans (Hot) 6-2, 6-1. L Davenpor (US) bi E Cations, (Bel) 7-6, 6-1. Querter-finale: S Grai (Gar) bi

J Wiesno (Austral) 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 A Huber (Ger) bit M Maiseva (But) 8-4, 7-6 H Subora (Cz) bi Sánchez Vicano 6-3, 7-6 I Majoti (Cro) bit Devenpori 6-7, 7-6, 7-6 or Universion 5-7, 7-6, 7-6
SINGAPORE: Men's tournament: Second nound; J. Frana (Anglist G. Radoux (Fr) 6-4, 6-7, 7-6; J. Stark (US) to S. Schalken (Holl) 7-6, 7-5; T. Johansson (Swe') bit B. Black (Zim) 6-0, 7-6; M. Sinner (Ger) bit M. Woodforde (Aus) 6-2, 6-3, R. Krajosk, (Holl) bit P. Ratter (Aus) 6-4, 6-2, M. Chang (US) bit N. Penere (Ven) 6-3, 6-1. Cuarter-finals: G. Fusastek (GB) bit A. Cithoristi, Ph.s.s.) 7-6, 2-5 Sant bit Sinner 7-6, 7-6. Chang bit Frana 6-4, 6-1, Johansson bit Krajosk, 5-7, 7-6 ref.

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RACING 42-44

Helissio heads home defence of Europe's premier prize

SP()RT

Montgomerie closes on top place in order of merit



SATURDAY OCTOBER 5 1996

Super League becomes a global reality



Arthurson: defiant

IN simple scoring terms, it was victory by 60-1. The Super League yesterday routed the Australian Rugby League (ARL) in the Federal Court in Sydney on every ground for appeal bar one and its long-cherished global vision for the court will now finally become sport will now finally become a reality.

The immediate consequences are a resumption of Anglo-Australian playing re-lations and a lifting of a ban on an Australasian Super League An international fixture, probably in Brisbane, is being arranged for next month, at the end of Great Britain's tour of the Pacific and New Zealand. There will be a world club championship in October next year between the top four European and Australasian sides, followed

appeal to the Australian High Court against the decision of the three appeal court judges, who overturned every ruling made by Justice James Burchett in his original judg-ment in favour of the ARL last February. However, the comprehensive nature of the Super League's victory led to mutterings from inside the ARL that it might have neither the stomach, nor the pocket, for a continuation of the 20-month battle to control

rugby league. Without tours to Australia and world play-offs, the Euro-pean Super League, albeit successfully launched last summer, was hollow and impaired. Now, the prospect of both gives succour to a game that has the raison d'être for

mer restored. Through Rugby League (Europe), the new promotional arm of the 12 Super League clubs, commer-cial possibilities can now also be tapped to the full. A busy calendar should also prevent another short-term

A battle principally over pay-television rights in Australia was one that Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League chief executive, felt throughout would elevate the sport to a new plane. There

MARCH 1996: The 12-team European Super League kicks off in Pans, but with no prospect of play-offs against the top Australasian sides. More than 300 rebel

Australesten sides. More than 300 rebeit Super League players in Australia threaten to start their own league. OCTOBER 1996: The Australian Fed-eral Court of Appeal sets saide all the original orders made against the Australessen Super League, enabling it to kick off next February, culminating in play-offs with the top four European teams, in October 1997.

TIMETABLE OF VICTORY

MARCH 1995: Pay-television dispute erupts in Australia with plans for a so-called Star League (after to become Super League) Mass defections by players from the establishment Austra-tian Rugby League (ARL).

han Hugby League (AHL).

APRIL 1995: English clubs accept a live-year £57 million offer by The News Corporation to set up surmer European Super League Proposate for merged clubs abendoned. ARI, buys up Jason Robinson and Geny Connolly, of Wigan, in bidding wer with Super League.

OCTOBER 1995: Australia anub Super League players and win the cantenary World Cup in Britain with a side comprising only ARI, players. Formation of Super League International Board.

ability to win this case," he said. "There is a sense of vindication, but mainly excitement now that we'll have a global competition, with the best players in the world on

the biggest stages."

For now, Australia has two national teams; the ARL version plays tomorrow in Papua New Guinea. The country will also have two competitions in 1997, unless there is a move by the 12 ARL clubs to join the ten-team Super League, which will start next February. If the worries expressed by some loyalists turn into a revolt, then the ARL will be hopelessisolated, although all stood

firm at a meeting last night. In upholding 60 grounds for appeal, the judges found that loyalty agreements binding clubs to the ARL breached

was a dwindling band of us with faith in Super League's ability to win this case," he were unfairly affected by previous court orders. The one ruling against the Super League's backers, News Ltd. the Australian arm of The News Corporation, the parent company of The Times, was that it should pay damages for interference to the ARL

> There is no doubting the tenacity of the now impoverished ARL in fighting what it sees as a takeover of its game and, as the most popular television and spectator sport in New South Wales and Queensland, a rich market. Super League matches in Australia and New Zealand will be shown on Foxtel, a paytelevision channel 50 per cent owned by News Ltd. There was no word yesterday from

Kerry Packer, whose Channel

CLIVE BRUNSKILL/ALLSPORT

competition.

Super League clubs, Canberra, Cronulla and Brisbane, made the top-eight final series in the recent Australian Premiership, appears to back the argument by Ken Arthurson, the ARL chairman, that his organisation possesses the better players, though it is not totally convincing. In ruling out any compromise. Arthurson said he was convinced there would be two competitions next season.

For Great Britain, who meet Fiji in the early hours today, the restoration of Australia to their tour itinerary represents an eagerly-awaited climax For Australian players of the calibre of Steve Renouf, Bradley Clyde and Laurie Daley, it will be a welcome return to the international arena.

Britons'

advance

Wales pin hopes on Dutch discord

By Russell Kempson

AN ABIDING memory of the out 13 other players, including European football championship was of England's 41 defeat of Holland. The Dutch were not only mastered but destroyed, a result that, even four months on, they find difficult to accept or comprehend. Tonight, when they open their 1998 World Cup campaign with a qualifying tie against Wales in Cardiff, they will attempt to exorcise the demons that still lurk within.

Nobody is foolish enough to admit as much, at least publicly. Victory over Wales, the group seven leaders, could hardly be deemed revenge for a humiliation on English soil. What Holland seek is a reaffirmation of their self-belief, a confidence verging on arrogance that they remain a force

on the European stage. It is a test, too, of team morale, which was partially lifted by a 2-2 draw against Brazil in Amsterdam in August. Has Guus Hiddink, the Holland coach, managed to

GROUP SEVEN

Wales 2 2 0 0 11 0 6 Belgium 1 1 0 0 2 1 3 RESULTS: Sen Manno 0 Wales 5, Wales 6 San Manno 0; Belgium 2 Turkey 1

restore harmony among a group of players that appears to have inherited many of the egotistical qualities of its illustrious predecessors?

During Euro 96, Hiddink sent home Edgar Davids, the midfielder player, for criticising his team selections. Rumours of racial conflict in the multicultural squad were rife, We cannot deny the past," Hiddink said yesterday. "We have talked a lot about Euro 96, about what went on, and everybody is aware of it. The spirit before, during and after the Brazil game was good, and it is good now. Everyone knows their obliga-

tions, my expectations." Perhaps it has helped that Davids is not with the party. He has been unable to gain a regular place in Milan's Serie A side. Hiddink is also withDennis Bergkamp, the Arsenal striker, Patrick Klui-vert, Peter Hoekstra and Richard Witschge.

With Bergkamp's hamstring injury failing to respond to treatment, Hiddink did not dare risk him - much to Arsenal's relief, no doubt. "They need not have worried," Hiddink said. "We have good medical staff and they have kept in close contact with Highbury. Arsenal did not put us under any pressure." Bergkamp said: "You would usually expect Holland to beat Wales but the Welsh have a

great spirit. All week, Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, has been stoking up his players, hyping them into a state of simmering self-assurance. He believes that the two victories against San Marino - Il goals scored, none conceded - can be accompanied by a third, more notable scalp; that even without Ryan Giggs, who is suspended, the task is not beyond

He has demanded passion and aggression, but bristled when a Dutch television crew suggested that he might employ kick-and-rush tactics. "I take great offence to that," he said. He does, though, hope that the 4-1 horrors return to haunt Holland. Memories like that don't disappear too quickly," he said. "I think it's going to be tough for them."

Of the probable Dutch lineup, six started at Wembley. Jordi Cruyff shudders at the thought of another defeat. "It would be disastrous," he said. "It would give Wales nine points and us zero." He paused. "I don't want to even

think about it." WALES (4-4-2): N Southall (Everton) — M Bowen (West Ham Unsed), A Mehrille (Sunderland), K Symones (Menchester Chy). M Pembridge (Shoffield Wednesday) — J

HOLLAND (4-4-2, probable): Even der Sar (Ajax) — F Vierldeu (Vitesse Amhem), F de Boer (Ajax), S Velcko; PSV Eindhoven), W Bogaude (Ajax) — A Winter (Internaz-ioriale), W Jonk (PSV Eindhoven), P Cocu (PSV Eindhoven), C Seedorf (Real Madnd) — J Cnylf (Manchester United) R de Boer (Ajax), Substitutes: to be announced.

Rob Hughes, page 42 Welsh likely lads, page 42 Scotland depleted, page 42





Rusedski, left, acknowledges the crowd after his quarter-final victory over Olhovskiy, while Henman's determination is evident after his success

continues apace BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE upsurge in British tennis fortunes continued yesterday with Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski reaching the semi finals of ATP Tour tournaments in Lyons and Singapore

Henman defeated Karol Kucera, of Slovakia. 7-6, 6-2, to set up a repeat of his meeting at Wimbledon with Yevgeny Kafelnikov, which the British No I won. The Russian secured his place in the last four in Lyons with victory over the No 2 seed, Magnus Gust-

After being kept on court for 2½ hours before beating the Dutchman, Jan Siemerink, in the second round late on Thursday, Henman eased through despite playing in discomfort from blisters. Once he had shaded a first-set tie-break 8-6, the result was not in doubt as Henman secured the second set.

Rusedski built his 7-6, 6-2 win against Andrei Olhovskiy. of Russia, in the Singapor Open on the foundations laid by his renowned service power. Rusedski, who is unseceded, struck to aces.

including three in succession to close out the match. "My tennis has been there, but I am more relaxed now and I am not letting my mind wander,"

Clubs unveil European vision

By David Hands, Rugby correspondent

THE leading clubs in European rugby union yesterday agreed a formula for a competition next season that they will put out to tender to hmadcasters. It is not yet clear whether they intend to operate within the auspices of the game's traditional governing

Clubs from England, Wales, France and Italy, meeting at Heathrow, proclaimed an agreed "European-wide structure of club league and cup competitions" — from which Scotland and Ireland are noticeable by their absence. Talks ... were the result of a desire by professional rugby union dubs to establish a stable and viable platform for the game in the northern hemisphere.

It is hard not to see this proposition as putting the cart before the horse. The clubs have to establish whether they are working as partners with. or in opposition to, their respective unions, which, in England and Wales, they have yet to do; French clubs, meanwhile, have reached such an agreement and will not participate in a competition unauthorised by their federation.

If the club plan proves acceptable to any broadcaster, and the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) has guidelines that channel such agreements through national unions, then it will cut directly across the existing two-tier knockout tournament organised by European Rug-by Cup Limited (ERC), which

begins next Saturday. As a sweetener to television interests, which may see in this level of club rugby easier access to international rugby, the clubs have agreed to release their players for eight internationals in any season "on a basis to be agreed with the unions.

That, at least, offers some hope of an area for cooperation, though Wales, for example plan to play ten internationals this season

alone. There is no suggestion that the clubs would release players for district rugby in Scotland and Ireland, or for the representative tier planned by the Rugby Football Union, which will pit, say, the Northern Counties against the All Blacks and Argentina over the next two months.

"Today was an important step forward for the creation of

Wales prepare Orrell anxiety

a properly organised and securely funded European-wide professional club rugby union structure," the clubs' statement claimed, although they have yet to produce evidence of the secure funding that critical to their

aims. Tom Kieman, chairman of ERC, doubts that the aims of the clubs replicate those of the

clubs who have turned themselves into business houses," he said in Rome, where the IRFB general meeting is in session. Marcel Martin, Kiernan's colleague from France, has offered details of the agreement reached between the French clubs and their governing body as a model to Donald Kerr, chairman of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, though he has yet to receive an acknowledgement.

Meanwhile Vernon Pugh, the IRFB chairman, has emphasised to the 61 countries attending the board's third general meeting that profes-sionalism should not be allowed to divide the game.

We must not let presentday problems overtake our longer-term objectives," Pugh said in Rome. "The IRFB is your governing body. Its au-thority has to be accepted by all: unions, clubs, provinces and other rugby bodies whether great or small, strong or

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Afridi: 11 sixes in teenage blitz

Pakistan prodigy shatters one-day record

By Our Sports Staff

SHAHID AFRIDI, of Pakistan. who is thought to be only 16, scored a century from 37 balls, a record in international one-day cricket, in the match against Sri Lanka in the Kenya four-nations tournament in Nairobi yesterday.

His age may be in dispute - one report says he is 18 — but there was no disputing the way he rewrote the record books in what was only his second appearance on the international stage. He hit II sixes and six fours before falling for 102. "It looked more like baseball than cricket," one spectator said.

Shahid, who was pulled out of the Pakistan youth side to replace the injured Mushtaq Ahmed, missed the fastest one-day international 50 by one ball, but smashed the previous record for a century by !! deliveries. Both records were held by the Sri Lanka opener, Sanath Jayasuriya, who made 50 from 17 balls and 100 from 48 against Pakistan in a tournament in Singapore last April. Yesterday. Afridi had the satisfaction of hammering Jayasuriya out of the attack by taking 43 off the left-arm spinner's

two overs, including five sixes.

The Pakistan manager, Nusrat Azim, said he had asked for a slow

bowler to replace Mushtag and was unaware that Afridi was also a batsman. "I didn't come here to slog," Afridi said. "My main job is to be a spinner. I just wanted to be useful to the team."
Inspired by their latest prodigy,
Pakistan made 371 for nine in their 50 overs. Afridi. who went in at 60

for one, shared a second-wicket partnership of 126 with his captain, Saeed Anwar, who scored 115. Despite an innings of 122 from Aravinda de Silva, Pakistan bowled out their opponents for 289 to qualify for the final against South Africa tomorrow. But it was a close

run thing. Had Sri Lanka made one

more run they would have qualified by virtue of a superior run-rate. It looked as though Sri Lanka

would just make it when, in the final over, Chaminder Vaas hit a huge six off Wagar Younis followed by a four. But the fast bowler had the last word, bowling Vaas for 16 with the penultimate ball of the match to finish with figures of five

It was a good win win for Pakistan over the World Cupholders for they were also without Wasim Akram, who has returned home to be with his sick father.

The match aggregate of 660 runs

مكذا من الأصل

Najibullah had hours to save himself from killers



Christopher Thomas finds Kabul still shocked by the summary death of a former leader

A SCRAWLED message has appeared on the concrete post from which the former President. Muhammad Najibullah, was left dangling in the centre of Kabul last week: "Let this be a warning." The garden hose used for the hanging is still there, drawing a steady stream of people who stare in shocked silence.

Kabul observed its first full day of Friday worship under Taleban rule yesterday, still stunned by an event that has fuelled fears about the kind of people who are now master of three-quarters of Afghanistan. There was ample reason to hate Najibullah, once a secret police chief, but no one wanted this. He had spent four and a half years sheltering in a United Nations compound, a short walk from the presidential palace where he ruled for six years before being toppled by the invading Mujahidin in April 1007

ing

vear

tot

April 1992.

In the frantic hours before being killed, he was either naive or so paralysed by fear to try to save himself. He save killed with

save himself. He was killed with his younger brother. Ahmadzai, who had stayed with him. They slept by day, and by night they a million filed: the brothers could have disappeared in the chaos 2

smoked, watched television, played cards and read. They feared being killed by snipers if they ventured in daylight into the compound's small walled garden.

There was a small swimming pool, which they used

There was a small swimming pool, which they used after dark. They installed punchbags and weightlifting equipment: both were in peak physical condition. A burly Najibullah. 6ft 2in and known as The Ox. lost 12'2 stone and was almost unrecognisable from his presidential days. Every week or two he spoke by UN satellite phone to his wife. Fatana, and three daughter in Delhi, where they are guests of India's Government.

guests of India's Government.

One day a year he donned a navy blue suit and tie and celebrated a formal birthday dinner for both of them. Their birthdays are a few days apart: they had always celebrated them jointly. A cake was baked for his last birthday, his fiftieth.

The former President, in effect installed as leader by the Soviet Union, was enthralled by The Great Game by Peter Hopkirk, a former journalist with The Times, and was translating it into Farsi. He had hoped to have it printed and said all Afghans should read it to understand more of their history and draw lessons from it. He had one or two chapters left to translate.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, ousted as President nine days ago by Taleban, offered to take Najibullah with him when he fled north. Najibullah, not trusting him, refused. He seemed to think he was safer with the invaders, or perhaps he had come to fear the world beyond the gate.

At about 6pm his government guards fled. For hours, he and his brother could have walked out of the gate. A quarter of a million Kabul citizens were fleeing: there was chaos and the pair could have

6 A quarter of a million fled: the brothers tried to lose themselves in it. Instead, they decided to stay. Taleban soldiers came at 1.30am last Fried.

have day and took Najibullah to the Presidential Palace, leaving his brother behind. One account of what happened next is that Najibullah put up a fight

Najibullah put up a fight, seized a Kalashnikov and was shot in the head and body. There is no doubt, according to a doctor, that he was dead when strung up. Before dying he had demanded the right to make a last public statement. He wanted journalists and a crowd-of 1,000 to hear him. Having refused interviews during his incarceration, he was desperate to say

something.

His brother, who had been talking frantically over a UN walkie-talkie seeking help, was driven by five gummen to the palace, it was now 4.30am.

the palace. It was now 4.30am. From there he was taken alive with Najibullah to a nearby roundabout and hanged. The bodies stayed suspended for two days. Najibullah's family was given safe passage by Taleban to Gardez, the family ancestral home south of Kabul, for last Monday's funeral.



A Jewish woman weeps as an Israeli police officer carries a baby to safety after the Wailing Wall area was evacuated

Appeals for calm outweigh call to arms by Hamas

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELIS and Palestinians pulled back temporarily from the brink of war yesterday as anempts by Islamic militants to incite "total confrontation" between Jews and Arabs after Friday prayers at Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque and elsewhere in the West Bank and Gaza Strip failed.

As both sides appealed for calm before tomorrow's American-sponsored peace negotiations on the Israel-Gaza border, Muslim clerics restrained stone-throwers and Israel softened its security dragner on the 2.2 million Palestinians under its control.

Palestinians under its control.
Palestinian police, reacting
to orders from Yassir Arafat,
the President of the Palestinian Authority, worked to prevent new confrontations. As
one east Jerusalem shopkeeper said, with an enigmatic
smile: "For a few days at least,
we are prepared to give peace
a chance."

Although a handful of the 12,000 worshippers who managed to reach al-Aqsa threw stones on to hundreds of Jews praying at the Wailing Wall,

Israeli riot police refrained from storming the Temple Mount.

Al-Aqsa prayer leader Muhammad Hussein shouted through a loudspeaker as the stones began to fly: "We do not want to give the aggressors a chance to close the mosque. Please go home quietly."

Jewish worshippers fled from the Wall after evacuation orders were shouted by police, whose restraint had been specifically ordered from above. Earlier, Binyamin Netan-

Earlier, Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, made an unprecedented appeal to Palestinians for calm over Israel's Arabic TV and radio channels. "I ask you, do not go into mourning. Do not lose hope. This is an opportunity for a fresh start for the peace process."

Shamir ill: Yitzhak Shamir, SO, the former Israeli Prime Minister, collapsed in Paris yesterday at a fundraising meeting, Israel Army Radio said. He was treated for exhaustion and high blood pressure. (AP)



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By George Brock, European editor

Member states hide behind British opposition as Chirac pushes for progress on Maastricht II

EU leaders target Major at start of treaty review

AND RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

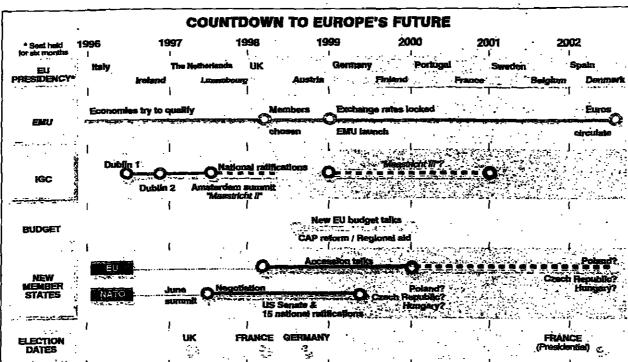
JOHN MAJOR will offer a Union's Irish presidency as a convenient target today when European Union leaders meet in Dublin to give impetus to the virtually stagnant negotiations to revamp the Maastricht treaty. British resistance will not, however, drown out the increasing discord among the other states over the design of a new Europe.

The looming British election is being blamed for the way in which almost all the member states are holding back from serious negotiation at the conference (IGC).

The Prime Minister will take a stand against attempts by a strong EU majority to insert an "employment chapter" into the treaty. The pro-

balance to the treaty's commitment to monetary rigour, would seek to commit member states to creating and safeguarding jobs. Britain insists that the matter is up to member states, and Germany shares its qualms. The leaders of Austria, The

Netherlands and Portugal sig-nalled their distaste for the Conservative administration this week when they took the unusual step of sending messages of support to Tony Blair at the Labour conference, despite the party's lukewarm stance on Europe. With the Tory conference only three days away, Mr Major will repeat his opposition to virtually all the reform proposals on the table, particularly a



draft "economic chapter" that has been approved by 12 of the 15 member states.

There is widespread agreement, however, that Britain's opposition to any extension of powers is being used by other states to disguise their own misgivings about ceding sovereignty. In a glaring illustration of the prevailing mutual suspicions, Irish officials said yesterday that only Denmark and Austria had responded to a questionnaire last month in which all states were asked to what extent they were prepared to discard the veto in favour of majority voting in EU decision-making. France and Germany, the motor of the federal-minded states. Union and the core countries The aim of the summit is to of the proposed single currency, refused to respond, despite

noble statements about the

need for more majority voting. The episode has fuelled conthat today's gathering will end with a minimal brush-up of the kind desired by the British Government rather than the ambitious framework desired by the

kickstart the IGC exercise in time for a formal gathering in Dublin in December and conclusion of a Maastricht II treaty in Amsterdam next June. John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister and President of the EU Council, wants a commitment to finish the new treaty in June and an agreement not to lower ambitions for the outcome.

He also hopes the leaders will focus on ways of enabling the EU to fight drugs and crime, create jobs, run a coherent foreign policy and reshape its institutions for the entry of up to a dozen new members from Central and

Eastern Europe.
President Chirac is eager to draw up the new EU treaty so that it can be ratified well before the French general elections in March 1998. He and Professor Romano Prodi. the Italian Prime Minister.set off for Dublin yesterday saying they had smoothed over their differences and would take a joint approach on issues ranging from the Middle East to monetary union.

Signor Prodi said after a summit in Naples with M Chirac that there was a "perfect understanding" between them

question of whether efforts to qualify for monetary union were sufficient in 1999. M Chirac, who had chosen not to utter parts of his earlier speeches in Naples that praised Italy's new policy, said at the end of the summit that Rome's rigour was a "courageous policy in line with the European spirit".

interest rates can only be appreciated." Signor Prodi was also conwithdrawing remarks that he made earlier this week about French budgetary "window-dressing".

He added: "The subsequen

rise in the lira and fall in

John Major, page 20

WHEN President Chirac arrives in Dublin today, he will be keen to shake the intergovernmental conference on the Maastricht treaty out of the torpor and obscurity into which the French leader thinks it has fallen. The summiteers will hear a lot of vigorous, galvanising language from the President, who intends to lecture his fellow leaders about the need for clarity and concentration. A look at Europe's crowded

calendar for the rest of the century explains why M Chirac is in so much of a hurry. 1998 is so packed with decisions, selections and elections that it will become either the EU's annus mirabilis or annus horribilis, and M Chirac and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, are busy trying to work out ways of successfully stage-managing

1998 and 1999. President Chirac does not want his compatriots still bickering over the rights and wrongs of Maastricht II in the months before the French general election of March 998. So he will be urging the

summit to hurry up. Ever since the architects of European integration have harboured designs on the sensitive political subjects of frontiers, crime, armies and currencies, voters have been dropping spanners in the works and ruining carefullycrafted timetables. The comprehensive reorganisation of political Europe will be punctuated by elections. M Chirac is upset because most of his European partners want to delay the end of the treaty conference until at least next June, in the hope that a Labour government in Britain will be more accommodating than John Major. Herr Kohl, holding a steady and commanding poll less in Germany, works hard to ensure that his opponents find no electoral opportunity to nary Germans have about the single currency. As the timetable stands

now, Germany's federal elec-tion falls between the EU summit (sometime in the spring of 1998) which will choose the members of the single currency and January , 1999, the date for the launch of monetary union. The summit in the spring of 1998 will be chaired by the British Prime Minister. That prospect has helped to persuade the German Cabinet to consider a six-month delay for the start of EMU. The critical

summit would then be chaired by Austria, more sym-Enlarging the EU depends on its existing members agreeing revolutionary change to the subsidy regimes for regional aid and the common agricultural policy. The EU has no history of making such huge changes

Enlarging Nato depends on all 16 parliaments in the present allied countries ratifying a new Nato treaty — and on Russia agreeing to tolerate an American-led alliance creeping eastward.

The target date for the entry of the first lucky few Central European states to squeeze inside is April 4, 1999 exactly half a century after Nato's founding treaty came into force. That is an attractive incentive to a leading country such as Poland. But for countries such as Bulgaria. Romania and the Baltic republics. the wait will be much longer.



John Major, who is likely to oppose any "employment chapter", and John Bruton, host of the Dublin talks

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Maoris in £77m land deal

Wellington: New Zealand announced a £77.4 million settlement in land and cash with a South Island Maori tribe over claims dating back 150 years, but denied the deal, made eight days before a general election. was politically motivated.

Doug Graham, the Treaty Negotiations Minister. said the Government had agreed in principle with the Ngai Tahu to settle the tribe's claim to large tracts at the South Island after gotiating for more than live years. (Reuter)

Greek party re-elects Evert

iment of

Athens: Militiades Every 56, who resigned after losing last month's general election, has beenre-elected leader of Greece's conservative opposition party. New Democracy, by 104 votes to 84, defeating a challenge from the left wing (John Carr writes). However, the leadership is set to be an issue at the party's spring convention.

Ozone hole growing

Geneva: The hole in the ozone layer that forms over the Antarctic in the Southern Hemisphere's spring is ready 7.7 million square miles, twice the size of Europe a UN agency, the World Meteorological Organisation, said, It would know next week if the depletion level exceeds last year's record. (Reuter)

Actor's speech upsets judges

Ankara: A Turkish actor, Mahir Gunsiray, faces up to three years in jail for reciting a passage from Franz Kafka's novel The Trial to judges trying him for deliberately flouting freedom of expression accused of insulting the

Love-sick Cairo doctors held

Cairo: A male doctor and a woman doctor, caught aking love in a Cairo hospital by a male nurse. tried to blind him so he could not denounce them. al-Akhbar newspaper reported. The couple, who have been arrested, rubbed alcohol into his eyes. (AFP)

Iceland faces deluge as volcano melts vast glacier

By Nigel Hawken, science editor, and Jonathan Grove in vatnajokull iceland

ICELAND braced itself yesterday for severe flooding as a volcano erupting under Eu-rope's largest glacier melted huge quantities of ice, raising levels in lakes beneath it to the highest levels this century.

Engineers cut the main southern road, carving trenches across the road to divert the expected floodwaters away from bridges, and throwing up embankments to break the first shock of the deluge.

The erupting volcano, Bardhahunga, lies under nearly 2,000ft of ice that make up Europe's largest icecap. Vamajokull. This vast area of ice covers almost a tenth of iceland's surface.

The volcano had been showing ominous signs of activity for days, with mild earthquakes indicating that something was going on beneath the ice. By Tuesday the ice around the main crater of Bardhabunga had subsided, leaving a massive depression.

Along the line of a rifi running southeast towards another volcano, Grimsvotn, huge crevasses had opened up. The Grimsvotn volcano exploded in 1783 with such devastating results that the total abandonment of the

island was discussed. Flights over the icecap on Wednesday showed that the subsidence bowl had increased in size and depth, with three new depressions forming, indicating intense melting at the base of the glacier along a fissure three miles long. Ice over Grimsvotn also started to rise, as melted water flowing into its crater increased the pressure and lifted the overlying ice.

By Thursday morning, the eruption had broken through the ice. To the sound of rhythmic explosions, ash rose 1.500ft into the air and black clouds reached 26,000ft, making visibility so poor that observations could only be made for a few minutes at a time. Ash was scattered over a 60-mile area, and flights to the north of feeland were banned. No injuries were reported, but farmers were warned to keep sheep indoors.

Magnus Gudmundsson, a physicist at the University of Iceland, said that the main danger was that floodwaters under the ice would move

To the north there is a canyon. Jokulsa'a'Fjollum. which would swallow up the water relatively harmlessly.



Billowing clouds of steam, gas and ash rise high into the Icelandic sky as the Bardhabunga volcano erupts

the south, which would cause all the rivers flowing from the west and the south of the ice sheet to overflow.

The probable result of that would be to wash out the main road in the south, possibly even including the modern bridge across the Skeidhara River. This is why the engineers were yesterday cutting

through the road to prepare flood channels, in the hope of sparing the bridges.

Fortunately there is a vast subglacial lake at Grimsvotn, kept permanently unfrozen because of heat rising from the Earth's crust. This lake fills up over a five to ten-year cycle before emptying, and since it did this last year, the water

recently. But by yesterday the level had already risen by more than 60ft, and another 120ft or so would trigger a flood. The estimate is that more than a million gallons of water might flood down the

rivers south of Grimsvotn. There are no towns in the area, but many farms could be

VATNAJOKULL

Six senior generals dismissed by Yeltsin

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday dismissed six top Defence Ministry generals as the Government and military chiefs outlined plans for far-reaching reform of the impoverished armed forces.

Yevgeni Podkolzin, commander of the paratroops, and Vladimir Ivanov, the rocket forces chief, were among those sacked. Interfax news agency reported. The others were Tadimir Zhurbenko, the First Deputy Head of the General Staff, and three heads of ministry directorates -- Vladimir Vysotsky, the personnel and instruction chief. Nikolai Kotyley, the accommodation chief, and Vladimir Nikitin, the legal service chief.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, chaired the first meeting of the Russian Defence Council, a high-level consultative body set up to supervise reform of the armed forces. Participants called for restructuring of the military to counteract a serious shortage

President Yeltsin has called for the creation of a profes-sional army by 2000, but Igor Rodionov, the Defence Minister, believes 2005 is a more realistic deadline.

Mr Rodionov said army chiefs were looking into cuts of up to 300,000 servicemen by the end of next year.

SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS

Rise of Lebed Magazine, page 10

Tokyo tries to calm islands row

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPANESE extreme-rightwingers angrily condemned the Government yesterday for refusing to recognise as an official navigational signal the lighthouse they built on Islands at the centre of a tease dancer.

The younger daughter of pain China and Taiwan.

Prince Rainer III and Prince

The lighthouse on one of the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands -- called Diaoyu by the Chinese - in the East China Sea touched off anti-Japanese protests in

Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Japan rejected the request for official recognition of the structure by the Japanese Youth Federation after a Cabinet meeting, for the sake of international relations and national security".

The federation yesterday vowed to occupy Uotsuri, one of the islands, and build a permanent structure to house

Divorce for Princess Stephanie

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRINCESS Stephanie of Monaco was granted a divorce from her husband, Daniel Ducruet, yesterday, a month after he was photographed cavorting with a Belgian strip-

cess Grace of Monaco filed to divorce M Ducruet, her former bodyguard, after Italian and Spanish magazines published graphic photographs of him with Fily Houteman, winner of the "Miss Topless Belgium" title, at a poolside in the south of France.

divorce proceedings on September lo after a final reconciliation effort with her husband failed. Princess Stephanie and M Ducruet, a former fishmonger, were married on July 1 last year. The couple have two children, Louis, four, and Pauline, two.



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Surgeon who saved Pope's life after assassination attempt prepares for appendix operation

Keyhole star of heaven's gate

WHEN the Pope enters hospital tomorrow for his sixth operation in his 18 years as pontiff, he will be in experienced hands. Professor Francesco Crucitti, the surgeon wielding the scalpel, has operated on the Pope three times before.

With the pontiff older and more frail, there is a lingering mystery over what is really wrong with him. In May 1981, Professor Crucitti, who heads the Institute for Clinical Surgery at

the Catholic University Polyclinic, performed a six-hour operation which saved the Pope's life after the assassination attempt by a Turkish gunman in St Peter's Square. Three months later he had to operate again when the pontiff developed an

In July 1992, Professor Crucitti removed a tumour from the Pope's colon. He admitted the tumour was "on the verge of becoming malignant". Some Vatican sources believe the pontiff's present troubles can be traced to the attempt on his life, when he was shot

in the abdomen, and the subsequent

VATICAN FILE

by RICHARD

OWEN

This time the Pope, 76, is undergoing an appendectomy Last month the Vatican admitted, after months of obfuscation, that his repeated bouts of illness since last Christmas were the result of "chronic inflammation of the appendix".

This was greeted with scepticism, and many suspect that Professor Crucitti, a specialist in laparoscopy, or keyhole surgery, may take the opportunity to see if the Pope is suffering from something worse, such as the recurrence of a "near-malignant" growth. Asked why Professor Crucitti

Lining up bones of contention

VATICAN millennium preparations have help Italian engineers to overcome the obearthly as well as spiritual goals, with plans to construct an underground railway runstacles. The tunnel route passes so many archaeological sites that engineers have to ning beneath the Tiber to link St Peter's call a halt each time a bore hole reveals another ancient cemetery or building. "The with the Colosseum and the heart of Rome. Tiber is turning red with the blood of British firms involved in the Channel bureaucratic battles." L'Espresso said. Tunnel construction are said to be ready to

maintained for so long that the Pope's illness was due to "influenza with digestive fevers", he replied candidly: "If I had said it was something that needed surgical treatment, I would have caused uproar. We managed to tame the inflammation with drugs, but now I have to operate."

Professor Crucitti said the trembling in the Pope's hand, attributed by some to Parkin-son's disease, was neurological — "which is beyond my competence". The Pope's general condition was good, he said, but would be better if the pontiff did not insist on a punishing travel schedule

The professor's aim is to have the Pope back on his feet for the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination on November 1. A special eight-room papal suite has been prepared on the tenth floor of the Gemelli hospital in Rome, with a private lift, and bullet-proof windows and doors. The suite includes a Lady chapel, a kitchen, and accommodation for the Pope's entourage and medical team, including his personal doctor, Renato

Professor Crucitti has made sure that the Pope's bed will have a view of the dome of St Peter's. But the pontiff's favourite nurse, Sister Ausilia, died of cancer this summer. and will be replaced by Sister Franca, another nun from the same order and a regular member of the professor's nursing



Professor Francesco Crucitti, who will operate on the pontiff

Doorstep calls to faith for 'pagan' city

ONE of the Pope's last acts before entering hospital was to endorse a campaign by Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the Vicar of Rome and head of the Italian Bishops' Conference, to bring Christian belief back to an

increasingly pagan Italian capital.

With the millennium on the horizon, Mgr Ruini wants to reinvigorate faith in the city, which is expecting 40 million pilgrims from around the world for 2000.

Cardinal Ruini's aim is "to halt the

inexorable advance of de-Christianisation in the Pope's own diocese." La Repubblica said. Only 23 per cent of Rome's population of nearly three million regularly attend Mass on Sunday and a mere 12 per cent say that they go to confession once a month. Seventy per cent of Romans say that they are in favour of divorce, promarital sex, birth control and abortion.

The cardinal says that even though Rome is wrapped in the history of Christianity", it is not immune from the "worldwide phenomenon" of loss of religious values. He plans to distribute a million free copies of St Mark's Gospel to families in Rome over the next three years. and to hold public debates at which leading cardinals will answer questions. Each Rome parish is being asked to form "patrols" of 20 to 30 missionaries "to carry the word of God from door to door".

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CHANGING TIMES

Nun keeps secret of Fátima for 79 years

By Tunku Varadarajan

THE sole survivor of three Portuguese shepherd children who claimed in 1917 to Virgin Mary at Fátima - now one of the most important centres of pilgrimage in the Roman Catholic world — has just completed 50 years of monastic life at a Carmelite convent in Coimbra.

Sister Lucia, now nearly 90, was tending her family's sheep 79 years ago when, according to her testimony, "a Lady brighter than the sun" appeared before her and two young cousins. The children were to see the vision six times

The affair was deeply con-

troversial at the time, with the anti-clerical Republican Government accusing the Church of "fabricating a miracle" to boost its influence. The children were arrested and put under pressure to admit to a hoax, but they stood fast under interrogation and were subsequently released, after which they said they saw the Virgin was the last time. Up to 70,000 people converged on Fátima that day — October 13, 1917 — although only the three children saw her.

On that occasion, 10-year-Virgin with three prophecies. which came to be referred to as the "secrets of Fatima". The first two, which predicted the Bolshevik Revolution ("Russia will spread her errors through the world, causing the Church") and the Second World War, have always been known. The third is still a secret, and often the subject of fearful speculation among the faithful.

The two cousins, Francisco and Jacinta, died of influenza shortly after the vision. Lucia, deeply affected by her spiritual experience and the death of her cousins, was drawn to the Church, completing her novitiate in 1926. After spending a few years of study in Spain. she joined the Sardao convent in Portugal, where she remained until 1946, the year that she entered the ascetic Carmelite order.

In 1957, Sister Lucia wrote down the contents of the "third secret", entrusting the envelope to Pope Pius XII. On her instructions, the contents must not be revealed until after her death. In 1981, a former Trappist monk hijacked an Aer Lingus jet and threatened to blow it up if the Pope did not immediately reveal the "third prophecy". The hijacker, however, was subdued, and the st_et remained safe.

when the Pope was shot in an assassination attempt in May that year, many believers were convinced that that event was the one prophesied





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■ OPINION

Too little, too late? Lord Gowrie's protests about shrinking subsidy are years behind the times



INTERVIEW

Fêted in Paris, Yasmina Reza bursts on to the week with her





GOING OUT

From Meg Ryan going to war in the Gulf for her new film, Courage Under Fire ...



GOING OUT

... to Jessye Norman in recital at the Festival Hall: the top events are in

for months the dread word "lottery" has not crossed these few centimetres that I call home. I have surprised even myself with my Trappist absti-nence, But frankly, what's the point of banging on? Those with the power to institute change clearly prefer to sit tight in their

little quangos, rather than face the mess outside. Consider the great flaw in lottery funding: the bizarre rule that allowed the lottery to bankroll glearning new culture palaces but prevented it from saving good performing companies from going bust. Readers may recall that this yew was pointed out, here and exewhere, years ago. If Lord Gowrie, the Arts Council's chairman, disputes this, let him dispatch his chauffeur to inspect the annals of The Times (although. knowing the Arts Council, I expect it has an entire department devot-

ed to annals inspection). But the Arts Council did nothing when the lottery rules were being drawn up. The reason? Pure greed.

London scene next droll comedy, Art



Weekend, page 16 Whatever that airy tosh means, I

Welcome to 'the people's priorities'

It wanted its cake and its icing too. it expected the Treasury "honourably" to maintain the arts subsidy even when vast sums were flowing

from the lottery.
Unbelievably naive? Those are not words that spring to mind about Gowrie. But I fear that m'lud was a triffe vain. When he took up the Arts Council job, replacing the incurably inert Lord Palumbo, he really did believe that, as a former Tory minister, he could pull strings. The Treasury might be persuaded to increase the grant, he told me at the time, because the arts subsidy was too small to have a "macro-economic implication". I didn't have a clue what he meant, but it sounded jolly convincing.

Alas, he has been betraved by his old buddies. Macro-betrayed. The subsidy has been cut, viciously. And the Treasury has pointed out, as everybody (except the Arts Council) knew it would, that the lottery has more than doubled the amount the Arts Council has to ay with, so whar's the problem? The problem, of course, is that the Arts Council is stymied by the daft rules it helped to formulate.

Its response to this crisis? It

arrived in two parts, both useless. First came last month's "stabilisation fund". This does indeed change the rules to allow lottery funds to prop up arts organ-isations in dire straits. But it is so tiny in scope as to be pointless. Second came Lord Gowrie's

hopelessly belated verbal attack on the Government this week, accompanying an Arts Council annual report that offers more of the same. For a man who told The Times in May 1994 that the arts world was full of "subsidy junkies". Gowrie is curiously indignant now about the IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

"El7 million in real terms" that has been lopped off the Arts Council budget in the intervening years. Rather than offering the Trea-

sury lessons in "macro-economic

spiritual plane. "Only perhaps the Sovereign carries as much moral weight beyond these shores as our artists," he tells us. I have read this extraordinary

sentence many times, and still have no idea what it means. How much "moral weight" does Liam Gallagher carry beyond these shores? And if luvvies get more handouts from the taxpayers, does this give them more "moral weight", or less?

The Arts Council report also recruits Sir Cameron Mackintosh to write an article titled No public subsidy, no West End. In other words, undermine the subsidised theatres that nurture talent, and you iconardise a

hugely successful industry. That's a more promising line of argument. The weakness in it is

successful, why do they need subsidy? Well, you and I and Lord Gowrie know the answer to that, But to the averagely dense Tory or Labour MP the subtle reasoning is not so easy to follow.

Besides. whatever goodwill there was in political circles towards the arts largely evaporated after those huge lottery handouts. That was ominously clear from Tony Blair's speech this week, when the PM-in-waiting questioned whether the lottery money had, in fact, all gone to good causes. "We want to fund specific environment, education and public health priorities through the proceeds of the lottery," he said. "I want the people's money to go on

the people's priorities." Gosh, if I were an arts administrator that sentence would scare me stiff. The people's priorities? fear that opera-house extensions don't feature highly. The message is: "The bonanza is over, chaps and if you have squandered it. tough luck."

h's good to hear something from Labour on the subject of culture. Stephen Dorrell's invisible-man act when he was Heritage Secretary seems, in retrospect, like a whirlying of innovation when compared with Jack Cunningham's performance so far as Shadow Heritage Secretary.

But the grim truth is that

Labour will probably not reverse the arts subsidy cuts. What's more, it will divert lottery money away from the arts as well. No wonder Gowrie is desperate. It's hard to imagine this patrician aesthere leading the Arts Council into an era where "the people's priorities" come first. Is there some university that offers crash courses in Baywatch, Benidorm and takeaway biryanis? Probably. If so. could it find a place for a bemused peer of the realm?

M. ROSENSTIEHL<u>/</u>SYGMA

Three men and a lady

Tasmina Reza's play Art was a succes fou in Paris, running for an unprece-dented IS months and picking up two Molière awards. Some 30 productions are currently playing on the Continent. Yet she is nervous about British audience reactions when it opens in the West E in two weeks time because, she says, "the English are such an

idiosyncratic race". We meet at a hotel in St Germain, around the corner from where 37-year-old Reza lives with film director Didier Martiny and their two young children. Dressed in skinnight suede trousers and modish curvy black jacket, Reza is not your stereotypical writer, aloof from the vagaries of fashion trends.
"I love clothes," she says. "When I was photographed by English and German Vogue, it amused me to play the glamour card. After all, real life is part frivolous and part serious, full of contradictions. A person can think about laxatives at the same time as listening to

Schoenberg. This is the kind of ambiguity that informs her writing. Matthew Warchus, who is directing Art here, compares her to Samuel Beckett in that she takes a simple idea and uses it as a vehicle to say something profound - camouflaging it under the cover of comedy. Yasmina turns a shrewd eye on the human

condition," he says. Christopher Hampton, Art is fiercely funny about three men, Serge (Tom Courtenay). Marc (Albert Finney) and Yvan (Ken Stott), who have June Ducas talks to French writer

Yasmina Reza as her play Art arrives in London with a star cast

been the best of buddies for 15 years. When Serge buys a modern painting, a blank white canvas arguably with tinges of grey lines for £20,000, he throws their friendship into disarray, unleashing intense and hitherto unexpressed

Apprehensive she may be, but Reza is not overawed by the starry cast. She says that if she had not considered them suitable, she would have vetoed them from the start. And having watched the initial rehearsals, she is impressed with their interpretation of the

Art is Reza's third play, and took shape two leading

Barré, a contemporary artist whose pictures hang in the Pompidou and who is well-known in arty circles here. I thought that the price of concept fired my imagination." How does she manage to capture

than women 🤊

seriously

French actors asked her to write a piece for them. "I couldn't think of a subject," she says. "Then one day a friend of mine bought a Martin Fr200,000 was ridiculous. But the

"Men are mysterious creatures," she says. "It fascinated me to write about them and to try to understand what makes them tick. Although I hate to generalise, men take themselves more seriously than women — possibly a sign of immaturity. Unlike a woman, it is

acceptable for men to swear, to be coarse or 6 Men take insult each other. Their vocabulary and manner of speaking are quite different themselves from ours." more

She admits, however, that the characters portray some of her own personal traits. "I develop many of my thoughts suppose I am highly strung like Serge. Could the play be

performed by three women? "Impossible. Women are more curious. inquisitive beings. After years of camaraderie, they would be com-pletely au fait with each other's Reza's background is exotic. Her

late father, a Jew whose roots were Iranian, was born in Moscow but brought up in France. Her mother, a violinist, is Hungarian. "My grandparents and most of my

DONMAR

relations are scattered all over the world," Reza explains. "Growing up, it gave me a broader perspec-tive than my peers, and I often write about foreigners. We are a close-knit family. At home, our humour has always been intrinsically Jewish. Jews are able to mock themselves. It's the sort of wit that

crosses all boundaries. Perhaps this explains why Art has touched a universal nerve. Translated into 15 languages, it has aiready been seen in Sweden, Norway. Holland, Israel and Germany: it is scheduled to go in 1997 to Canada, Russia, Spain and Italy. If all goes well in London, the

next stop is New York.
Reza studied drama at the University of Nanterre and later went to the Jacques Lecoq school of acting. but quickly realised that acting did not suit her temperament. "Actors are slaves to the whims of other folk," she says. "I find that intolerable."

Prone to depression, Reza seeks solitude - reading, playing classion success are ambivalent - it both thrills and disturbs her. "Of course, it is wonderful to be praised and fêted," she says. "But you expect, in the middle of all the glory, to be over the moon with joy. My great flaw is that I am unable to be happy in the present. In retrospect everything is marvellous, and I have hope but no expectations - and there is a difference - for the future. But today is an illusion."

● Art is in preview at Wyndham's Theatre from tonight and opens on October 15 (0171-369 1736)

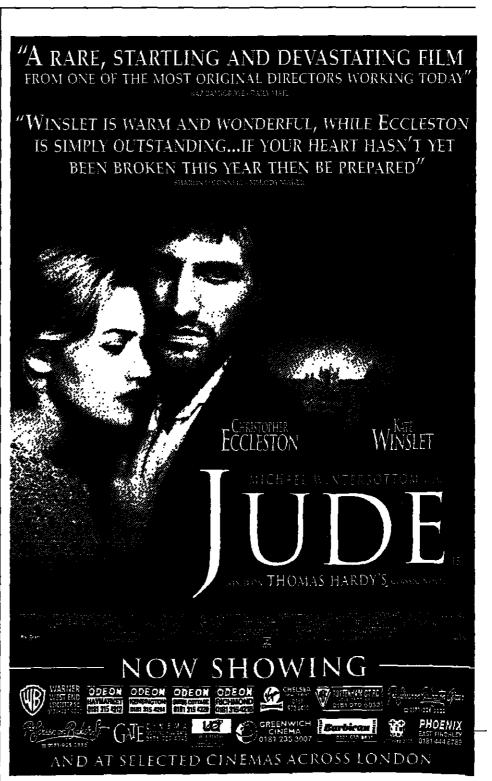


Yasmina Reza on contradictions: "A person can think about laxatives while listening to Schoenberg'









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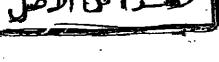
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RISING STAR

All I want to do is to prove myself in the same way as Orson Welles,' says the playwright Martin McDonagh THE



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Apocalypse then, but a little light comedy now: Francis Ford Coppola on his new film

GREAT BRITISH HOPE

Rising stars in the arts firmament

MARTIN McDONAGH

Profession: Playwright.

Forthcoming: At the end of November, The Beauty from a tour of Ireland to the West End — the Theatre Downstairs. St Martin's Lane. In mid-December. starts at the Correstoe.

How prolific is he? written 22 radio plays, all rejected by the BBC. "I once had

Doesn't that sound arrogant? Up to a point, but then he is the winner of the 1996 George Devine Award for Most Promising Playwright. Beauty Queen was ecstatically received in the spring, "hilariously funny" and "wickedly enjoyable" being typical notices. "I don't mind being called arrogant." he says. "All I want to do is to prove myself in the same way as Orson Welles or Muhammad Ali."

Any theatrical heroes? "I think I've been to the theatre about 15 times in my life. I quite like some early Pinter stuff. but I admire film-makers such as Scorsese, Leone and Keaton. My aim is to get as much John Woo into the theatre

and make a film like Trainspotting, or follow an independent Hollywood route."

a script to the first rehearsal, but I suppose it can be around 90 to 95 per cent. I never really wanted to work, and I certainly don't call this work. I was unemployed for a long time with the odd spell in an office and a supermarket. Cash

GUY WALTERS

Age: 26.

Queen of Leenane returns The Cripple of Innish Moor

LAFE

McDonagh has seven plays in stock. They're all pretty good," he says. He has also six turned down in one day. I would never accept any offer

So does cinema beckon? "I'd be happy to stay in Britain

How does he work? "I write very quickly and I'm very much a first draft man. I try to bring a 100 per cent perfect doesn't seduce me at all."

Starting next week. Great British Hope will appear on

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WINNER 1996 OLIVIER AWARDS

Clowns touched by Hamlet

mon has enjoyed about as much success in London as our own Alan Ayckbourn has enjoyed in New York - considerably less than his theatrical skills and popularity back home suggest that he merits. But could Laughter on the 23rd Floor be the play to transform Simon's British for-

THEATRE

Laughter on the 23rd Floor Queen's

tunes, coming as it does with a lovely, lugubrious perfor-mance from Gene Wilder as the TV comic at its centre?

One accusation against Si-

mon has been that a wry, rueful and very American sort of sentimentality mars his work. Well. Laughter does get slightly mawkish at the end, but elsewhere it is as brashly funny as anything he has written. Another accusation is that he is overdependent on smart one-liners and putdowns. But Laughter involves a bunch of feisty, wrangling scriptwriters who use jokes as everything from evasion to aggression to cocky self-display. So quip becomes charac-ter and repartee is dramatic

Like Simon's recent Brighton Beach Memoirs and Broadway Bound, the comedy is semi-autobiographical. Back in the early 1950s he actually toiled alongside Mel



"Using jokes as everything from evasion to aggression to cocky self-display": (from left) Linal Haft, Rolf Saxon, Toby Whitehouse, Gene Wilder

Brooks, Woody Allen and others composing TV sketches for Sid Caesar's Your Show of Shows. At the Queen's, Simon himself is transformed into

Toby Whithouse's bashful young Lucas Brickman, and the great comedian has become Wilder's Max Prince: an ochre-faced sad sack exuding baffled, beleaguered and highly entertaining gloom.

Offstage, all is dreary, dire or both. Joe McCarthy de-nounces General Marshall, the Rosenbergs are electrocut-ed, and blacklisting has hit Hollywood. Moreover, TV apparatchiks are in the process of trimming and emasculating Prince show they think too

brile atmosphere usual on the 23rd floor - shoes flung from windows, crazy graffiti scrawled on walls, obscene calls to St Patrick's Cathedral - its cause and its meaning. Humour for these jokesmiths is bravado and resilience: a frenzied challenge to a grim, forbidding world.

The play itself intermittently veers off in odd, idiosyncratic directions. One scene involves the team's stony resistance to Linal Haft's Ira, a dedicated Nebraska. That gives the fe- extravagantly moaning for the garages". That requires Wild-

medicos. Another exploits Prince's deep psychological terror of white suits by forcing Rolf Saxon's nattily dressed Milt into elaborate concealments and camouflages. Funny though they are, both episodes need more pizzazz than Roger Haines's production gave them on a sometimes

nervous first night. Never mind. The main emphasis is Max's losing war with TV executives who wear black socks up to their necks and dance with their wives sophisticated for lowa and in clutching his chest and and put up wallpaper in their

er to seethe, bluster, put his fist through the wall, and gradualevolve from incoherent paranoia to stunned dismay.

There are faults with his performance. He lacks the anger and the strength that an underling attributes to him. But you should hear him emitting mad military threats against the TV moguls or watch him falling asleep on his feet, victim of a blend of tranquillisers, booze and exhaustion. Like me, you will probably laugh a lot.

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Decline and fall of the publisher

The City has fallen out of love with publishing, says Michael Sissons

Publishing

needs more

than a few

bestsellers

s British publishers leave the Frankfurt Book Fair this week, they return to an industry in deep trouble. Publishing has been a flagship business for 100 years, at the centre of our social. political and cultural life, a shining example of success abroad. Educational, scientific and reference publishing remain strong and profitable. But the conglomerates have now swallowed many leading trade publishers. This has been neither a happy nor a successful experience. It is a demoralised industry, which has lost its way.

The halcyon days of general publishing were from 1930 to 1960.

Perhaps the best account of that period was Fred Warburg's autobiography, Occupation for a Gentleman. This title froze in popular perception the image of a refuge for the more languid products of Oxbridge. Yet the founders of the great imprints of that period, Allen Lane at Penguin, Jonathan Cape, Hamish Hamilton, Michael Joseph. George Weidenfeld, War-burg himself, were hardly gentlemanly in their business dealings. Penguin pioneered paperback publishing but the most successful was Billy Collins. He invented modern techniques of selling and promoting books into every corner of the English-speaking world. Collins was formidably efficient

and profitable. Throughout the Sixties, publishing remained powerful and influential. But publishing failed to weave its fortunes into the emerging power of investigajournalism and television. By the 1980s, British publishing worldwide had been eroded. American pub-

lishers were active in world markets. Countries such as Australia and Canada had developed indigenous publishing. The book, as a unique vehicle for entertainment, education and information seemed threatened by new media. A communications revolution, driven by new technology, heralded an electronic future which would change all assumptions about the delivery and the recep-

But the markets for the first time focused on general publishing, as financial analysts awoke to the media sector, about which the City had been notably ignorant. They commercial growth from the media explosion. They correctly perceived a great shortage of media stock. It was not easy to buy into either television or newspapers. They saw rich pekings in publishing. At the end of the 1980s, extraordinary prices were paid for British publishers, and the face of the industry was transformed. Yet a further assumption made by the City has been flawed. If you turned an occupation for gentlemen into a modern business, it was thought, with costs cut to the bone and modern sales promotion and mar-keting welded onto existing creative strengths, a highly profitable future beckoned. A hundred or so general publishing firms shrank to under ten major publishing groups. HarperCollins, Random House, Reed. Hodder Headline, Macmil-Ian. Penguin and Bantam Corgi dominate the premier league. The smaller houses of the penumbra seem fated to become the feeders, the providers of talent for the big

The management of this volcanic transition has been pretty disas-trous. The profit which consumer publishing generates rarely satisfies the expectations of public companies for short-term return. A third of the workforce disappeared

and has not returned. These draconian policies have had a catastrophic effect, in the devaluation of the editorial function and the collapse of morale in an industry which is nothing if it ceases to be creative.

Finally, much new capital went not into building steady and sustainable growth but in seeking to capture market share by buying ready-made bestsellers at auction. Christopher Gasson, financial analyst at the trade magazine The Bookseller, sees in total some £120 million of unearned advances -thus bad debts - sitting in publishers' balance sheets. A chronically undercapitalised business has used up huge new wealth in no time. The importunate demands of agents and authors are readily blamed for this. But while they sucked hard on the cash cow, they didn't breed with

Publishing is now run, in the main, by salesmen and accountants rather than publishers. A publisher must be a businessman with an editorial flair, like Billy Collins. He once returned from a sales trip to Africa talking of a dotty English woman who had lionesses as pets, and motivated Collins to produce one of the biggest bestsellers ever. Paul Scherer, of Bantam Corgi, the one major successful general publisher who has bucked the trend, and arguably the wisest, sums it up: "Without exception the conglomerates have

been able to instil neither a sense of loyalty to the firm as a whole nor stability and self-confidence within their staff. They have set individuals and departments at each others' throats. The to survive in result has been disastrous."

the Nineties The City has fallen out of love with publishing. It has proved difficult to achieve a 10 per cent net return from general books. Public companies and venture capitalists have winced at the cash appetite of publishers. Reed, who paid more than £500 million for its publishing division, was unable to raise £100 million when it put Reed Consumer Books on sale last year. Scherer puts its true value at around £60 million. The sober Boston publisher Houghton Miff-lin bought the family firm of Gollancz for £8 million, and sold it just two years later for £2 million. Apart from Bantam Corgi, which has exemplary owners in the man group Bertelsmann, there is little profit to show. There are a handful of publishing houses which are demonstrably well run and well focused, the privately owned Faber & Faber and John Murray, the new firms Fourth Estate and Orion Weidenfeld among them.

Tet the book itself has held its own in an expanding entertainment market, and will continue to do so. English as a lingua franca has established itself in the last decade in every field of human activity. We have here a rich resource of creative talent and professionalism at all levels in our language. We need for the future an industry which will reflect and promote that unique natural resource. Publishing doesn't need to be reminded that no job is for ever. But a healthy publishing industry neds continuity, the prudent scattering of seed corn, patience for the long term. It must, above all, respect the editorial function which is its mainspring. It has never subsisted on a diet of bestsellers and never will. We need a new generation of true publishers.

The author is joint chairman of the literary agency Peters Fraser 8

A failed single currency would be a disaster for Britain as well as Europe, says John Major

hether or not to join a single currently, if one comes into being, will be one of the most important economic and political choices to face this country in decades.

The plain truth is that - whether we are in or out — we have a strong interest in shaping the decisions still to be taken. We can only do that if we stay at the table.

This view is shaped by the practical experience of six years as Prime Minister, dealing with the realities of standing up for Britain's interests in Europe. I believe the right course must be to make our choice only when the issues are clear. Our determination to stick to this course is often misrepresented as being simply a balancing act. But it isn't.

There are, of course, perfectly good arguments for and against joining a single currency. But there are many unknowns and uncertainties, all of which could affect our country.

At the most basic level, we cannot yet be sure EMU will go ahead as

who is likely to be in the first wave if and when it goes ahead. We cannot yet know how much economic convergence will have been achieved. We do not know how strictly the economic criteria

planned in 1999. We don't yet know

We must not allow EMU to be fudged

will be adhered to. Or whether participants will have achieved the necessary degree of flexibility in their markets to deal, for example, with different levels of structural unemployment.

And we do not know how EMU will work in detail, and what kind of conditions will bind those in it finduding such crucial conditions as the regime for controlling each country's budget deficit - the socalled stability pact).
We also need to weigh the effect

on the City of being in or out, as one of the major financial centres in the world. A debate is currently under way among the City's financial experts, but there are divided views. And much depends on decisions still to be taken. We need to make sure those decisions protect British interests, whatever course of action we decide on in the

We must judge the overall bal-ance of advantage for British business. Here, too, a debate is under way; and there are widely varying views for the moment. And what about other groups, such as farmers? What, for example, will be the implications of the single currency for the operation of the common agricultural policy?

nd there are still big ques-tions we need to examine about the relations between those who join a single currency and those who stay out. We want to ensure that these are resolved in a way that does not distort the single market, which is vital to Britain. We need to be sure that the Community budget is kept under tight control. And we need to examine how the Community institutions will function effectively and harmoniously in the changed cirsider the implications of all these issues for enlargement of the EU.

These issues will have a significant impact on the relative advancant impact on the relative advantage of being in or out. But whatever we decide, whether we are in or out, they will affect us.

If EMU goes ahead, with or without us, it's in our interest to ensure that it does so on a basis and

timetable that can be sustained. A failed single currency would be a disaster. Our European partners buy 60 per cent of our exports. Our companies are major investors in their economies. If they destabilise their economies and the single market - for example by fudging the criteria for entry - the British economy will suffer as well. We have a strong interest in a thriving European economy. That underlines that whatever the outcome, it is important to maximise our

influence over the preparations.

So Britain's voice must be heard in the European discussion of how a single currency would work. V have made a major contribution already. By staying at the centre of the debate we have ensured that the ERM remains voluntary, relations between the ins and the outs are firmly on the agenda, and we are best placed to resist protectionist measures damaging to Britain's interests.

We will continue to do so. That is in Britain's interest. That is what the City and business expect from us. We must remain closely involved in the debate about the future of our largest market and remain free to decide how best to

participate in it.. Britain's own interests will dictate which way our decision goes. To rush into a premature decision. to detach ourselves from the debate about Europe's future, would mean we could neither protect effectively nor advance what we saw as the British interest. We must look at the British interest, we must recome to issues dispassionately and come to

And that is what we will do. If we decide to go ahead in the next Parliament we would consult the British nation in a referendum and accept their verdict. If we think it right to stay out, we will do so.

Portrait of a lady in pearls







Three generations of Country Life women: the Hon Anne Wood, 1936; Lady Clarissa Duncombe, 1956, her daughter; and Laura Collin, 1996, Lady Clarissa's daughter

ometimes we wipe a grubby hand across our eye and surprise it with a tear. Country Life magazine is consigning the engagement photo-graph frontispiece to the spike. Young women are marrying later. They have careers, do not sit for portraits and will not appear dewyeyed in a glossy magazine, as if contemplating the suttee of an English marriage. The "girl in pearls" has gone the way of the debutante. She has died a natural death. The age has closed her

I must declare an interest. At the start of my career I was briefly an editorial assistant on Country Life, a post that included editing the frontispiece. I was not permitted to select the girl. That seminal role in the history of British style fell to the Editor, John Adams (or, so we believed, his wife). Each weekend he would carry down to the country a portfolio from the studios of Baron, Lenare, Rosalind Mann and Bassano and Vandyke. There, safe from the smoke and sin of the city, he would choose the girl with the scent of hay in his nostrils and the cry of hounds in the air. Back at the office we gambled heavily on

the outcome. The Editor's wife saw Britain's future security as built on the rock of a good regiment married to a good hospital. In those days the girl was usually a nurse (not a witless debutante as often supposed). She had a head start if she was at Bart's, Guy's or St Thomas' and did

not marry a doctor.

My job was to phone the lucky winner, hear her squeal of pleasure, check the regiment's name and wish her every happiness. For a young man alone in London, it The Country Life frontispiece is a great institution — but its classic formula has fallen foul of political correctness

was a distracting start to the week. Most of the staff thought the frontispiece sexist, bourgeois and not long for this world. At the time I agreed. It has outlived all our

receive the call will have been Miss Laura Collin. pictured above, from the September 12 issue. Miss Collin represents the latter-day frontispiece and her marital status is not mentioned. It so happens that both Miss Collin's mother and her grandmother were frontispiece girls, respectively Lady Clarissa Duncombe in 1956 and Lady Anne Wood (later Countess of Feversham) in 1936. We can, therefore, compare similar faces over more than half a century. The comparison shows the change and, dare I say it, decay in this gallery of English portraiture.

The 1930s picture of Anne Wood is superb. The camera is unafraid of her and she of the camera. The hair is simply combed and the eyes look straight at the viewer. Apart from the collar, there is no clutter. iust a cool. intimate stare. By the 1950s, Clarissa Duncombe is presented in less striking fashion. She looks away from the camera and is further distanced by a new-look dress and studio halo. The face takes up less of the page and we cannot peer into her eyes to fix the personality.

In the Sixties and Seventies, the frontispiece girls followed the shifting sociology of country society. There were fewer nurses, more

secretaries and interior decorators. They married farmers and professional men rather than soldiers. They wore lambswool-with-pearls almost as uniform. But the strength of the picture lay in the face, not the setting. Over time this face softened and narrowed. The make-up became less assertive, the hair more natural. In 1990 colour was introduced, the skin tanned and the mouth began to smile. At some point teeth appeared and have

remained ever since. The magazine has recently strug-

Simon Jenkins

gled to keep the feature alive. Celebrities have refused to judge the "frontispiece of the year" award. Efforts to make the girl more natural and "active" have often been ridiculous. We have had girls with dogs, girls on farms, girls driving cars, girls with men (Good Heavens) and even with children. We have had students, occupational therapists, designers. We have had horses galore. Last month a Miss Hermione Jackson was pictured kissing a horse with her eyes shut — said to be preparing a yearling for the Newmarket sales

before going up to Newcastle University' The girls have retreated timidly

from the camera and the oncedominant face has shrunk into the background. The photographs have become a clutter of context, of clothes, houses, pets, possessions and the paraphernalia of a career. The frontispiece often looks like a fashion picture or country house advertisement. Miss Collin stands in what seems a rhubarb patch. Her hair is casual, her eyes half closed. The picture is fresh and jolly, but it is not a portrait. By moving from face to activity. Country Life has done the opposite of update it. The women have been loaded with social and economic symbolism. As for engagement, it is taboo. Political correctness has

come to Country Life.
Ferninists should have cheered the former style. In my view, the old frontispiece rejected both the Feminine Mystique of Betty Friedan and The Beauty Myth of Naomi Wolf. Ms Wolf may be right that the magazine industry enslaves women with excessive body awareness. (Though she sees women as strangely inert victims of male willpower.) She may protest that the average weight of a Playboy girl is 17 per cent below the female average, and that 78 per cent of 18year-olds are neurotically "dissatisfied with their bodies". Vogue may be guilty as charged with inducing

anorexia These accusations could hardly be laid at Country Life's door. True. the subjects were, at least from the 1940s, engaged to be married. One critic saw the frontispiece girl as "a rabbit frozen in the oncoming headlights of matrimony". But she was hardly presented as a sex object or gender stereotype. Nor, as Lord Clark wrote of the nude, was our eye "accustomed to the harmonious simplifications of antiquity", seeing the woman not as a living

organism but as a design". The frontispieces were more in the tradition of Victorian "proposal paintings". These showed the woman at a turning point in ha life, her face full of hope and decision, often looking into the distance or directly at the viewer and away from the man. To me, the Country Life photograph was, essentially, a generalised portrait. It had nothing to do with sex or beauty or motherhood, but conveyed the changing English character through the medium of a face in

Country Life has moved towards political correctness and fallen foul it. In giving its subjects props behind which they can retreat from the camera it has given hostages to fortune. Modern photography can be unforgiving, but the photographer's art is to set the sitter at ease and draw character from her or his physiognomy.

A portraitist does not need to fill the frame with horses, spaniels. roses or farmyards; least of all need he make a political statement. These things tell me nothing of a person's character, only their status. I want the full face again. I want to look into the eyes and wonder at the thoughts. The Count try Life frontispiece is a hundred years old next year. Another 100

Music Hall

RADICAL plans from Sir Peter Hall to shake up the English National Opera have gone down like a salt-water gargle at the Coliseum. In an article entitled The ENO Experience, in the ENO's inhouse magazine, Sir Peter writes: "May I be provocative here?



But can you be certain

Wouldn't it now be truly revolu-tionary for ENO to throw away its English-language-only policy and sing with the verbal sound which the composer had originally heard? With surtitles we could get the verbal values as well." Hall is undoubtedly the most important figure in opera and theatre to take

such a stand. The thought of flashing surtitles looming above the crushed velvet sends the ENO's diehards reaching for the sal volatile. Even though picking out the words sung at the Coliseum can sometimes be like tuning into shortwave, the idea that the ENO might abandon its all-English policy is a non-starter.

Dennis Marks, the general director of the ENO, comes straight back at Hall in the same magazine: The result of (surtitles) is what someone described as the 'drinking duck' experience, with heads bobbing up and down to grab the odd word here and the odd facial expression there." He then adds: "You wouldn't go to the National Theatre expecting Aeschylus in



 The publishers Little. Brown. who have contracted Edwina Currie to write two books for £300,000. may find some similarities in the first of the two novels to Currie's own life. Set in 1960s Liverpool, it will tell the the story of a Jewish girl who falls in love with a non-Jew, to her family's strong disapproval. Currie herself married Ray Currie, who was not Jewish, and her father never spoke to her again.

Bare cheek

LABOUR'S media fixers will stop at nothing to wrong-foot their opponents, not even stripping. On yesterday morning's Today programme, Tony Banks, MP for new Labour, was in mid rant when his co-interviewee Peter Mandelson, MP, Labour's campaign manager, stood up and removed his trousers. With another interview with Breakfast News pending, Mandelson claimed he hadn't the time to change more privately.

"It's not something that has happened to me before," said Jim Naughtie, the show's presenter. "I wondered whether I should say anything on air but there are some things even our listeners should be

spareo.
"Peter had lovely slim, hairy legs," whispered a female eyewitness. But was he wearing John Major's fabled favourite, the Y-front? "No, they were boxer shorts, but they were dark blue."

Hanoi Hirst

HAVING conquered Soho and West Hampstead, Damien Hirst, pickler, has ambitions in Vietnam. He is currently in Hong Kong, from where he will travel to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in preparation for big shows there next year. Hirst's roadshow, entitled Making Beautiful Paintings, was the

talk of Thursday night's thrash at

the ICA in London where Fool's

Rain. an aggressively groovy contemporary art show, was opening. While a very casual Lord Roth-schild dandled the recently divorced Maya Flick on his knee, Jay Jopling, Hirst's agent, talked up his

The artist has taken his spinpainting machine out with him to educate the natives in making great art with nothing more than a whirling canvas and a paint gun.

 Another step up the cultural ladder for Tara Palmer-Tomkinson,



Hirst: bound for Vietnam

Chelsea's embryonic Edith Sitwell. Next Thursday, she will be addressing the Cambridge Union, proposing the motion "This house believes in dressing for success". It is her first speaking engagement since her writing career took off. Her fellow debaters are somewhat less stellar. They are the comedian Greg Proops, former Neighbours actor Mark Little, Jeff Banks of the Clothes Show and the former editor of Cosmopolitan. Marcelle D'Argy Smith. Next stop Question

Derailed

BRITISH Rail's last non-privatised InterCity service caused havoc for the hundreds of Labour delegates returning from Blackpool. Less than 48 hours after voting to renationalise the railways, the nattily dressed Blairites were hit by two breakdowns on the Presion to London service. The 4.20pm train broke down without even leaving Preston, and its replacement was heaving with passengers from Scotland, forcing many of the delegates onto the floor of first class. This train then broke down in

Wigan, forcing passengers onto a third train. Food then ran out in the



Tara: new talking point

buffet and the word "Blackpool" was muttered as if it were a cursoft.
The delegates finally arrived at Euston four hours late. Sir George Young is greatly and the state of the stat Young is expected to announce the sale of the InterCity West Coast franchise at next week's Tory

MAJOR'S MAYBE

Maximising influence means keeping EMU open

One issue overshadows this weekend's summit in Dublin, next week's Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth and the looming general election. It occupies no formal place to itself on any agenda. It will dominate neither of the main party's manifestos. But the debate on the European single currency is, as the Prime Minister acknowledges on the facing page, with very English understatement, one of the most important economic and political choices to face this country in decades". It is, almost certainly, the most important choice the nation has faced since 1945. Over the next week The Times will publish the views of the most authoritative voices in that debate whin the governing party.

The Government's current position is not as easy to defend as that of its Tory critics. It provides no vivid banner around which partisans can rally. But the position outlined by Mr Major is the best which Britain can currently occupy to safeguard its own interests and those of its European parmers. By maintaining a strategic ambiguity on the future of the single currency the British Government may be able more easily to persuade others in Europe to share some of its concerns. As long as Britain reserves its right to join, it can claim a particular role in shaping the single currency's future.

That role could be decisive. The Prime Minister argues that, "a failed single currency would be a disaster". There is no doubt that driving divergent economies into the corset of a single currency would create unemployment, depress demand and provoke social unrest. Mr Major is alive to the pressures on the Continent for some fudging of the convergence criteria to allow countries ill-qualified for monetary union to join the first wave for political reasons. Amour proper must not prevail over economic produce. If the criteria were fudged then the potential economic dislocation would cause turbulence from which Britain could not insulate itself, even outside EMU.

By preserving its freedom of manoeuvre the British Government could make the case for, at the very least, a monetary union which minimised the risks of failure. Better still, a Britain with its influence maximised might be in a position to prevent the flawed project altogether. Britain occupies the EU presidency during the first six months of 1998, when the Council of Ministers will decide whom to allow to proceed to EMU. That decision will be made by qualified majority vote. Britain could, as John Redwood has argued, use that leadership role to persuade a blocking minority of its partners to stop a single currency for which

Europe was not ready. Some Euro-sceptics argue that Britain's ability to make its case would be strengthened if it declared itself against EMU now. A decision will, in any case, have to be taken soon. Britain has had more influence on European employment policy by opting out of the social chapter, flying the flag for enterprise and forcing the Continent to become more competitive than it would ever have done working from within.

But in monetary matters Britain has already exerted influence while keeping its options open. As the Prime Minister points out, as a result of the Government's advocacy, "the ERM remains voluntary, relations between the ins and outs are firmly on the agenda, and we are best placed to resist protectionist measures damaging to Britain's interests". He might also have pointed out that the original Maastricht conditions for any single currency were nudged in the direction of prudence by his

and Norman Lamont's negotiation. Britain's interests may at some stage soon be best served by abandoning ambiguity. But it would be wrong to declare a public refusal to join EMU simply in order to win cheers at the seaside. The harmful consequences of a single currency could be momentous. Mitigating them requires maximum realism and caution.

EUROPE: A HISTORY

A great new work by a great British scholar

Few works of intellectual scope and importance have started with the claim to contain "little that is original". Readers of our books pages last Thursday will have noticed a laudatory review of a book which begins in precisely that way. As our critic pointed out, the author of Oxford's Europe: A History is to be admired for more that modesty. Norman Davies has written one of those great books for whom the critics' "must read" verdict should be truly heeded.

As we have noted in these columns yet again today, the concept of Europe is the cause of almost constant political wrangling and grief. This gripping account of the coatinent from pre-history to modernity deserves the greatest possible readership among all who would take part in that debate. On Monday The Times will begin a series of extracts which, we hope, will give some sense of the work's extent and variety.

The disavowal of novelty with which the book begins refers to the primary research conducted. The quality of interpretation offered is another matter. It would have been understandable if a 1.200-page text like this had become so saturated with the detail of its story that it could not keep up the narrative momentum or examine wider themes. Yet messages are here in abundance - and much literary pleasure too. This is history as both microscope and telescope.

Professor Davies is an uncomfortable companion to anyone with a fixed view of how Europe should develop in the future. While the contours of the past are carefully outlined, there is no attempt to force, let alone reinforce, some single explanation upon the reader. The opposite is true: the aspects that the professor brings to life should provoke thought on all sides, the advocates of heroic and economic history. supporter of European integration and the staunchest sceptic.

Europe as a widely recognised idea is more modern, hardly 300 years old, than is often imagined. It grew as a secular res-

ponse to the prior failure of unity around a common idea of Christendom. Acquiring a shared culture to match geography has long proved elusive; the drive for closer European Union implies that this condition continues.

Even its borders are not certain; the question of whether Poland, the Baltic states raged endlessly - in both the texts of European writers and the travails of those negotiating Nato enlargement. The defining lines of Europe have included those of the Roman Empire, Catholic and Orthodox Christianity, Ottoman Islam, 19th century industrialisation and wine growing.

A particularly long and destructive trend has been the segregation and downgrading of Central, Eastern, and Southeast Europe from that part which considers itself "Western". That trend continues in the reluctance to expand the European Union.

Exercises of this comprehensive type are now unusual among scholars. The last example was H. A. L. Fisher's A History of Europe, published some six decades ago. When such an enterprise is undertaken now, it takes the form of a vast multi-volume series. These have value as a store of reference but not as a book to be read. Of late, history has become more specialised, largely inaccessible outside a narrow circle. and eschewing the broader story. This creates an excessive desire to collect, but not explain, data. Thus more and more, it seems, is known about less and less.

Modern historiography has many more disturbing tendencies still. The concentration on events - cultural movements, political divisions, and socio-economic change - has been downgraded in favour of a vacuous sense of "empathy". Even worse is the fashion for Post-Modernism which denies the analytic value of "facts" altogether. The Davies testament will bring powerful ideas to all who read it. If it has a similar impact on those who write history. then his triumph would be complete.

FOUNTAINS OF ELEGANCE

How to make a fist of communications ancient and modern

The fountain pen is making a comeback in the age of the laptop. A London saleroom yesterday auctioned more than a thousand lots of pens from around the world, including such inky rarities as a Waterman's doll pen too small for any human handwriting. Tomorrow the Royal College of Art opens an exhibition of pens. And jewellers sell bespoke and state-of-the-art fountain pens at prices so smart that they would make pen-pushers of previous

generations blot their copybooks in shock. This revival of the dry-cleaner's best friend flows against the blue-black tide. Until now the ascent of writing instruments has been from the primitive towards the more efficient and legible. So stone chisel was succeeded by stylus. Then reed pens proved finer and more flexible than quills. Inkwells and swel nibs, often crossed, kept the thumbs of schoolchildren ingrained with ink, and made blotting paper a schoolroom tool as necessary as chalk and blackboard. And then came the fountain pen, an early 18thcentury invention as revolutionary for clerical life as the paperclip and the fax.

Then Laszlo Biro introduced the age of the

disposable ballpoint that needs no refilling though even he did not finally solve the inkstain problem. For a ballpoint imploding in the pocket makes a mess even more indelible than a bottle of Indian ink. And finally the keyboard has made all writing mechanical, standardised and accordingly legible.

So why are we reading about this revived fashion for the fountain pen? Partly it may be nostalgia for less pell-mell scribbling times, when all morning could be spent in the writing-room composing a powerful letter in copperplate. And then there is no household object so trivial, from matchboxes to dolls, that cannot become a collectible. In their sleek lines, fountain pens are more beautiful than other old tools. And the modern ones made of platinum and jewels are so expensive that they have become objects of discreet pen-upmanship, like

expensive watches. It is still considered vulgar to display a row of fountain pens in the outside breast pocket of a blazer. But it cannot be long before pen bandits start mugging pedestrians in Bond Street just for the wealth clipped inside their jacket pockets.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Terms of reference for an inquiry into Hamilton affair

From Professor Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, John Major has indicated that he will make all relevant papers available to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey, in his investigation of the Neil Hamilton affair (report, October 4). Sir Gordon, however, can do no more than report to the House of Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges on his findings.

The committee has a Conservative majority. Any committee composed of Members of Parliament, however fairly it appears to operate, would not command the full confidence of the public in the present climate. Mr Hamilton can only be cleured and public confidence in the probity of MPs restored by an external inquiry.

The allegations made against Mr Hamilton and others amount, surely, to a crisis of confidence in the parliamentary system which needs proper investigation by a statutory tribunal of inquiry under the 1921 Act.

Such a tribunal can enforce the attendance of witnesses and examine them under oath. It can also authorise those appearing before it to be legally represented. That is the only method, surely, through which a satisfactory and impartial verdict can be reached. one which the Commons would not be able to ignore.

What should the Commons do if Mr Hamilton were not to be cleared but found guilty of serious improprieties and of deceiving, amongst others, the Prime Minister and Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary?

The Commons has, in the last resort, the power to expel a member. This power has been used twice since the war, once in 1954 to expel Peter Baker, a convicted forger, who would in any case have been unseated.

The other occasion was in 1947, when Mr Garry Allighan was expelled. He had wrongly told a House of Commons committee that MPs were accepting money for disclosing to the press the proceedings of private party meetings, something of which

he himself was quilty. The Leader of the House presented a motion proposing that he be suspended for six months without pay. But, on an amendment by Quintin Hogg, MP, later Lord Hailsham, Allighan was

It is significant that Allighan, a Labour MP, was expelled by a House containing a large Labour majority. In those days the Commons strove hard to protect its reputation, even where this involved voting against party

Many will feel that the offences of which Mr Hamilton is accused are more serious than that for which Mr Allighan was expelled.

Yours faithfully, VERNON BOGDANOR (Professor of Government), Brasenose College, Oxford.

From Mr Alistair B. Cooke

Sir. At the end of a week in which vociferous criticism of Neil Hamilton has appeared in The Times and elsewhere, his friends naturally feel deep dis-

In such circumstances, a friend's testimony is always suspect: however, it is surely not merely a friend's natural bias which creates profound unease about some of the comments.

The central issue has been increasingly obscured. The Guardian's case against a gifted and agreeably unconventional MP is founded on allegations by a man whose credibility was long ago challenged. In a world which attaches so much

importance to appearance (and often too little to reality) Neil Hamilton's position today would no doubt appear stronger if he had never had a business association with Ian Greer in the 1980s before he became a successful minister, but it was perfectly legitimate and there is no suggestion that it deflected him from his duties as a Member of Parliament. It is on Mr Al Fayed's assertions

that the case against Neil Hamilton

largely rests. Those allegations must be subjected to the most thorough scrutiny by Sir Gordon Downey, so that justice can be done.

Yours faithfully, ALISTAIR B. COOKE. Flat 1, 68 St George's Square, SWI. October 4.

From Mr Stephen Harrow

Sir. Baroness Turner of Camden appears to have been sacked (report, October 4) for having committed two er-rors of judgment: first, for openly telling the truth as she sees it, when she would have been better advised to fudge and hedge; second, for openly showing loyalty to an old friend and colleague who has become an embarrassment but who has done nothing illegal, when she would have been better advised to disown him.

The Labour leadership seem anxious to create the impression that instant dismissal is how they would deal with such exhibitions of decency by their frontbenchers if they become our Government. I find that impression unattractive - and very disturbing.

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN HARROW. Senior Common Room. King's College London. Strand, WC2. October 4.

From Mr Noel Falconer

Sir, Paying for parliamentary activities is bribery, and accepting inducements corruption. Both require swift

and severe punishment. Defending the accused remains entirely legitimate. Attacking their advocate - Labour's sacking of Baroness Turner - was not justice but an assault upon our system of justice.

Yours sincerely, NOEL FALCONER 223 Bramhall Moor Lane. Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire. October 4.

Labour and pensions

From Mr James Jerram

Sir, The article by Anthony Harris (Labour yearns for Castles in the air", Business, October 2; see also letter, October 2) is to be welcomed. It makes the points that pensions, however funded, are a claim on current production, and that real increases depend on productivity gains.

etween 1981 and 1996 gross national product per head in real terms (not exactly productivity, but reasonably close) has risen by 36 per cent. The oldest and poorest members of our society, those living on the state retirement pension, have received no part of this increase. It would be interesting to know why; to know who has had their share; and whether this must continue.

Sincerely JAMES JERRAM, 5 Barneroft Way. St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Devolution plans

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, In writing that "Never can a British Opposition have offered the electorate so little structural change in its platform", Simon Jenkins (article, October 2) is very wide of the mark.

The Labour Party's policy is to set up a parliament in Scotland, an assembly in Wales and numerous regional assemblies in England.

This is structural change of mammoth proportions, opening the floodgates to Celtic nationalism and threatening the very existence of the United

Yours faithfully RONALD FORREST. Delfryn, Castle Morris, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. October 2.

Disability campaigns

From the Chief Executive of Scope

Sir, As the Government wheels out its national advertising campaign pro-moting the new Disability Discrimination Act with the catchphrase " ... from 2 December everybody's equal" it was interesting to listen to Tony Blair's party conference speech (reports, October 2; see also leading article, same day) in which he committed the Labour Party to giving "the disabled the civil rights that the Tories have denied them".

The Government's Disability Discrimination Act is littered with exemptions and qualifications which allow and endorse the continued discrimination against disabled people. With the absence of an enforcing commission and any real teeth, the Act falls short of ensuring that "everybody's equal".

There are more than 6.9 million disabled people living in the United Kingdom. None of the political parties can afford to ignore the voting power of those who really do want equal rights for them.

Yours faithfully RICHARD BREWSTER. Chief Executive, 12 Park Crescent, WI.

Last chance for Middle East peace?

From Mr Menzies Campbell, QC. MP for Fife North East (Liberal

Sir, During the political negotiations to create and maintain an alliance against Saddam Hussein which followed the invasion of Kuwait in 1990 the Western allies rightly and consistently maintained that there was no linkage between that invasion and the unresolved problem of Israel and the Arab world. But the international community also committed itself, once hostilities were over, to a search for peace in the Middle East more dedicated than ever before.

The Oslo agreement was a remarkable, even astonishing, product of that search, based on the principle of land for peace, accepted both by the Palestinians and the Government of Israel. The practical implementation of these agreements under first Mr Rabin and later Mr Peres was neither easy nor always in accordance with the timetable, but that principle remained as a hedrock. The events of the past two weeks are a direct result of Mr Netanyahu's determination to change the principle to one of peace in return for

One has only to ask oneself what the Israeli Government's response would have been if Mr Arafat had embarked on a similar effort to depart from principle to understand just how disturbing the Netanyahu proposal is to the Palestinians. It also dangerous-

ly undermines the welcome and necessary support given by Egypt and Jordan to the peace process.

Increased settler activity, the failure to withdraw from Hebron, predatory action in relation to Jerusalem and the threat to close Orient House have rubbed Palestinian nerves raw. The opening of the tunnel in Jeaus gross provocation, whether intended or not. If Israel is serious about putting the peace process back on track it will have to make concessions. The closing of the tunnel as Malcolm Rifkind urged may now not be enough in

A democratically elected Israeli Government boldly and bravely entered into the Oslo agreement. Mr Arafat's subsequent electoral victory was ratification of the position he had adopted there. Flawed though it may have been, the course of events which these agreements prompted was the best prospect of resolution of a conflict which has exacted a terrible toll of human suffering on both sides.

The boldness which brought about the Oslo agreement is also needed to save it. Sunday's resumed peace talks may be the last chance for some time for such boldness to be effective.

Yours sincerely, MENZIES CAMPBELL (Liberal Democrat Foreign Affairs spokesman). . House of Commons. October 4.

Dress code

From Mr Ashley Mote

Sir, I believe the answer to Dr A. Freedman's question (letter, September 30) about the origin of the warning XYZ — examine your zip — lies across the Atlantic at least 20 years ago. At that time I was writing and directing sales conferences and business presentations for several international companies and encountered a guest speaker in London who had flown in from Toronto.

He opened his speech thus: "Since I have never spoken to an English audience before. I decided to consult the best book on the subject I could find called The ABC-XYZ of Public Speaking. ABC - always be cheerful: XYZ - examine your zip ...", which he then did with a great flourish and to raucous applause. The audience hung on every word after that.

Yours truly, ASHLEY MOTE. Langley Court East. Liss, Hampshire. September 30.

From Sir Rowland Whitehead

Sir, Zipped trousers? Bah! The gentleman says "OBE" (one button ex-

Yours sartorially. ROWLAND WHITEHEAD. Sutton House, Chiswick Mall, W4. September 30.

From Mrs Victoria Furber Sir, The response to "XYZ" is "ABC" all been checked.

Yours faithfully VICTORIA FURBER. Rosemount, Howbourne Lane. Buxted, East Sussex. October 1.

From Mr Michael Brooks Sir, Trouser sips only became com-monplace well into the 1950s. In the days when buttons were the norm, my father revealed to me as a growing boy the code word "medals". This, he claimed, would only be understood by other men.

Yours truly M. J. BROOKS. 76 High Street, Clophill, Bedford. September 30.

From Mr R. MacAlastair Brown Sir, The phrase "You're flying low without a licence" should lead to quick covert attention.

R. MacALASTAIR BROWN, 39 Moss Lane, Bramhall, Stockport. Cheshire.

Yours truly.

From Mr John Wallace

Sir. A warning adopted by my children is "Biggles" - code for Biggles Flies Undone.

Yours truly. JOHN WALLACE, 6 Jennings Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset. October 2.

From Mr C. R. Cone Sir. Whistling the tune Zippedy Doo Dah has usually worked effectively.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER CONE, 26 St James's Place, SWI.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

A safer habitat for Britain's flora

From Mr Roger Smith

Sir, Your superb picture of the snake's-head fritillary meadow heralding the Flora Britannica launch (Weekend, September 28) makes a very strong message for the conservation of all Britain's flora. So much of our flora, as in these meadows at Oxford, is maintained by the careful management of the habitat to ensure that our rarest species continue to survive to give pleasure and stimulation to each new generation.

Another key element of these conservation efforts has now been partially assured by the support of the Millennium Fund for Kew's new Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst

Kew, with the support of collaborating partners in both government and voluntary bodies, has set an ambitious target to ensure that all "bankable" species of the UK flora will have been deposited in the bank by the year 2000. Once safely stored, species can be kept for centuries or even millennia. They can be studied to discover their hidden potential and reintroduc-ed into the wild at any time.

Yours faithfully. (Head of Seed Conservation Unit), Royal Botanic Gardens. Kew, Richmond, Surrey.

From the Director of Plantlife

Sir, Your leading article on Richard Mabey's splendid Flora Britannica understates, in my view, just how appalling the plight of wild plants is in our countryside today because of the widespread and continuing destruction of wild habitats - as typified by. but not confined to, Twyford Down

and the Newbury bypass. Pace your leader, numbers do matter, if only to measure the scale of habitat destruction and therefore to show how vital it is to conserve what is left. Since the last war, we have lost, for example, 97 per cent of our wildflower meadows, half our ancient woods, three quarters of our heaths and 98 per cent of our unique lowland

raised bogs.

There is no point in pretending things are getting better or that we are now at some low point in the fortunes of wild plants and habitats after which they will somehow revive: unless government and individual attitudes and actions change we shall continue to lose plant communities and species and every year the countryside will be, botanically, than it was the year before.

Flora Britannica is welcome, because in stimulating people to identify and enjoy wild plants it will encourage their conservation. The only worry would be if readers were lulled by its immense wealth of plant lore into thinking that all is well with wild plants in Britian. They are in fact suffering a catastrophe.

Yours faithfully, JANE SMARŤ, Director, Plantlife, The Natural History Museum, Cronwell Road, SW7. October 3.

IRA and the Basques

From Professor Emeritus Charles Chadwick

Sir. With regard to your report (September 28) that the Basque separatists have a new hero in Diarmuid O'Neill. is it not difficult to see what the IRA and Eta have in common, other than their terrorist activities?

The IRA wants a united Ireland: Eta wants a disunited Spain. If the Basque separatists believe in self-determination for their own region in northern Spain, should they not support the present status of Northern Ireland, where the majority of the population wishes to remain separate

from the Irish Republic? If the IRA believes in self-determination for the people of Ireland as a whole, should it not support the Spanish Government's refusal to allow the Basque minority to create a separate state in northern Spain?

Yours faithfully, CHARLES CHADWICK. The Beeches, William Street. Torphins, Aberdeenshire. September 29.

Duchess of York

From Dr Andrew Crowcroft Sir, We should all be grateful to Nigella Lawson for her article (October 1). Many must have been affronted by the public witch-hunt of the Duchess of York. Have we as a people really i

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become so mean? Yours faithfully.
ANDREW CROWCROFT, 7 Parkhill Walk. Off Tasker Road. Hampstead, NW3.

Animal insights

From Mr Alan Smith

October 2

Sir, My late dog was most intelligent (letters, Sepember 12, 16, 24; October i). All I had to do was open the door. kick him, and out he went.

Yours faithfully, ALAN SMITH. 63 Abbey House, LA Abbey Road, NW8. 22



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE October 4: The Duke of York this evening attended the Regama Dinner given by the Royal Dorset Yacht Club at Custom House Quay, Weymouth, and was received by Mr Wilfrid Weld (Deputy Lieutenant of Dorset). October 4: The Princess Royal this morning visited South Yorkshire Supertram System, Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Shef-International Sports Centre, Street, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenaru of South Yorkshire (the Earl of Scarbrough). Her Royal Highness, President. British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, later visited Gash, Lion Wards, Pull Securio Shortfold Works, Ball Street, Sheffield.

The Princess Royal, President the Missions to Seamen, this evening attended a Reception and Auction of Promises at Goldney House, Clifton. and was received by Mr Derek Tedder (Deputy Lieutenant of the City of Bristol).

October 4: The Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended a concert given by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, as part of Copenhagen 96. Cultural Capital of Europe, at Trivoli Concert Hall, Copenhagen, Denmark. YORK HOUSE October 4: The Duke of Kent. Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon arrived

at RAF Northolt from Syria. Mr Nicolas Adamson was in

KENSINGTON PALACE October 4: The Princess Margaret. Countess of Snowdon, this afternoon

Countess of Snowdon, this afternoon visited Fife and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Fife (The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, KT). Her Royal Highness visited the Abbot House in Dunfermline.

The Princess Margaret, Councess of Snowdon, subsequently visited the United Distillers' Cameronbridge Distillery at Windygates.

October 4: The Dunhars of Gloupester.

Lord Taylor of Warwick

The life barony conferred upon Mr John David Beckett Taylor bas been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Taylor of Warwick, of Warwick in the County of Warwickshire.

Clockmakers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Clockmakers' Company for the ensuing year-master. Mr M.G.S. Frampion: Senior Warden. Mr Alderman M.B. Savoy: Renter Warden. Dr C.R. Lattimore: Junior Warden. Professor A. Boksenberg, FRS.

University news

Ms Geraldine Macdonald, Reader in Applied Social Studies at Royal Holloway College and Research Fel-low at Green College, Oxford, to the Chair in Social Work and Applied Chair in Social Work and Applied Social Studies, Professor Glynn Harrison, Professor of Community Mental Health at Nottingham University, to the Chair in Mental Health.

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 S Euch,
Darke in F, Benedicile (Jackson): 3.30 Choral E,
Stanford in C. 1 got me flowers (Vaughan
Williams).

Williams).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP: 9.15 HC:
11 Choral Euch, Vaughan Williams In D minor,
Lex thy merciful ears (Mudd), Love of the Pathor,
(Gibbons), The Provost: 4 Choral E. Stanford in
B Ilat. We want for thy loving kindness (McKle),
Stanford in B Ilat: 5.10 Asian Christians service.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7:40 M: 8 HG; 10 Choral Euch. O nata lux (Tallis), Missa brevis in D (K)94) iMozani, Listen sweer dove (rves). The Dean; 3:30 Choral E, Howells in G, Insanae et vanae curae (Hayon). The Dean.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL 8 HC; 9.30 M, Mrs S Adeney; 11 S Euch, Missa Ives, Sacris solemnis; IFenton), Rev R Symon; 3.15 E. Chichester Service (Walton), Praised be the God of Love Britten), Rev M Chandler; 6.30 Compline, Rev M Chandler, 6.40 Compline,

CARLISE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M: 8 HC: 10.30 Ireland In C. Thou visitest the earth (Greene). The Dean: 3 E, Wood In E flat. The Wilderness (Goss).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Family Euch, Asson in F. All things bright and beautiful (Rutier): 11.30 Choral M. Leighton in D. Thous visitest the earth (Greeney, 6.30 Evening.

Evening.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M. Stanford in B flat. Locus iste (Bruckner), The Treasurer. I I S Euch Aeterna Christ) Munera (Palestrina). Ave verum (Byrd). The Priest Vicar. 3.30 E. Gloucester Service (Howells). 1 have surely built thee an house (Boyce).

surely built thee an house (Boyce).
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL Oxford: 8 HC:
10 M & Sermon, Sumsion in G. Canon Peirce:
11.15 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Ave
verum (Byrd), Canon Ward: 6 E & College
Prayers, Collegium Regale (Howells), Te lucis
ante terminum (Gardiner).

ante terminum (Gardiner),
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP: 8
COMMUNION: 1036 Euch, Bairstow in 8 flat.
Jesu Joy (Bacci), Canon P Oestreicher: 5.30 E.
Noble in 8 minor, Sing we merrily (Batten),
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon D
Hodgson: 10 M. The Sbort Service (Gibbons), O
Lord Increase my faith (Lossemore), Canon S
Fedley: 11.15 HC. Missa brevis (Berkeley),
Tantum ergo sacramentum (Severac), Canon R
Coppin: 3.30 E. Walmistey in D. I walled for the
Lord (Mendelssohn).

Copping 3.50 wantise; in D.1 water to take Lord (Mendelssohn).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8, 15 HC, Rev D Green; 10.30 Harvest Festival Euch. Mass in D (Swayne), Lord's Prayer (Fanshawe). The Dean: 4 Harvest Songs of Praise, Jubliate in B flat (Stanford), achieved is the glorious work (Haydn).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch. O come ye servants of the Lord (Tye), Missa Brevis (Caesar). Ave verum corpus (Byrd), The Priest

Latest wills

Sir Ernest Gordon Cox, of Hampstead, London, secretary, Agri-cultural Research Council 1960-71, vice-president, Institute of Physics 1950-53, left estate valued at £45,211

George Howard Eckert, chartered surveyor, of Saffron Walden, Essex, left estate valued at £1,264,810

Thomas Henry Plumridge, of West Wycombe, Buckingham-shire, left estate valued at shire, left estate valued at £6,916,628 net.
He left £1,000 each to Stokenchurch Dog Rescue, Marie Curie Canter Care, and to a charity of his executors' choice. £2,000 to West Wycombe Parish Church to amend the headstone of the late Norman Pictors.

Wyndham Alan Green, Ashlord, Kent, left estate valued at E5,238,637 net. He left £500 to Jesus College, Cambridge, for the boat club. Guy Walter Otter, of Broadstone. Dorset, left estate valued at E1,152,373 net.

Dinners and service dinners are on the facing page

Vicar. 11.30 M & Police Service, The Treasurer. 3 E. Darke in A minor, How lovely are the messengers [Mendelssohn]: 6.30 Evening, O Lord increase our faith. The Precentor.

Lord increase our fails. The Procession.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Rev Sir J
Alieyne: 9.45 S Euch. Schubert in G. Rev J Clark:
11.15 M. Benedicite in B flat (Sumsion), Sing
Joyfully (Mundy). Rev Prof D Martin: 6.30 E
Howells in G. Harvest Anthem (Bourgeois).
Canon J Schofleid

Laiden J Scholled
Leicester Cathedral: 8 HC: 10 M: 10.30
Euch, Stanford in C. We basten O Jesu (Bach),
Achieved is the glorious work (Haydn), Mrs B
Butler; 4 Choral E. The First service (Tomicins),
Glory love and praise and honour (Harrist, Mr
M McIntosh: 6 Young Farmers Harvest Festival,
Very Rev L Jackson.

Very Rev L Jackson.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, missa brevis in D [Mozan]. We want for thy foving kindness (McKie), Tantum ergo (de Severac). The Precentor: 3.50 E Sumsion in G. Blessed city heavenly Salem (Baltstow).

DIESTED BY TEACH TO SALET (BALESIOW).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Communion Setting (Howells), Lead me Lord (Wesley), Rev R Crossiand: 11.15 Solemin Euch, Schubert, In G. The Subdean; 2 Earth our home service, Rev G Capatert, 4, 30 Su

Euch. Canon D Hutton: 3 Choral E. Canon N Vincent: 4 HC.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Mass for four volces (Byrd), The Archdeaon: 2 Far East Prisons of Waf Annual: 6.30 E, the Dean.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Ireland in C, Let us with a gladsome mind (Ridoug). Hark my soul (Ridous). 6.30 Choral E. Stanford in A, Praise the Lord. O my soul (Rinoti).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8, 9.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina). O Domine Jesu Christe (Guerrero). Canon M Perham; 3.30 E. Coventry Service (Whettam). The Lord is my shepheri (Berkeley). Rev R Impey: 6.30 Norwich East Deanery Service.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch. Rev D Murfet; 9.30 Parish Euch sung to Harris in F. For the beauty of the earth (Rutter). The Dean: 11.30 Harvest Festival. Stanford in C. The heavens are teilling (Haydin). Rev C Marmham: 12.30 Euch. Dean L Weatherhead: 2.30 Concert by Canens: 5.30 E. Collegium Regale (Howells). Die himmel erzahlen (Schutz). Canon C White.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 M. Britten in C. Let all mortal flesh (Balistow): 6.30 Rochester Saints Festival. Daries in E. Canon R Symon.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon D

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D

The Hon Simon Weinstock Prince Michael of Kent was

present at a concert held yesterday at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in memory of the Hon Simon Weinstock, a director of GEC.

Miss Barbara Frittoli, soprano, and Miss Anna Caterina and Miss Anna Calerna Antonacci, mezzo-soprano, sang Pergolesi's Stabat Mater with the Philharmonia Orchestra, con-ducted by Riccardo Muti. Lord Prior, Chairman of GEC, gave an address. Among those present

address. Among those present were:

The Hon Mrs Weinstock (widow), Pameia, Cella and Laetita Weinstock (daughters), Lord and Lady Weinstock (daughters), Lord and Lady Weinstock (daughters), Lord and Lady Weinstock (daughters), Lord and Lady Weinstock (father and mother), Mr and the Hon Mrs Laurent Lacroix (Drother In-law and sister), Mr and Lady Lacroix, Miss Clare Lacroix, Miss Lacroix, Miss Clare Lacroix, Miss Lacroix, Miss Clare Lacroix, Miss Lacroix, Miss Clare Lacroix, Miss Lacroix, Miss Clare Lacroix, Miss Cawais of Chichester, Wendy Countess of Chichester, Wendy Lacy Hindips, Lord Cartington KG, CH, the Downger Lady Killeam, Lord and Lady Eden of Winton, Lord and Lady Eden of Winton, Lord and Lady Eden of Winton, Lord and Lady Golf Lady Chichester, Lord Cartington, KG, CH, the Downger Lady Killeam, Lord and Lady Bacton, Lady Armstong of Itininster, Lady Lever of Marchester, Lord and Lady Bacton, Lord and Lady Woolf.

Baroness Rawlings, Lord and Lady Want, Lord and Lady Woolf.

Baroness Rawlings, Lord and Lady Want, Mr. Lady Sophia Mortison.

The Hon Kins Janon Fraser, the Hon Mrs Simon Fraser, the Hon Mrs Simon Fraser, the Hon Mrs Sam Mortison.

The Hon Charles and Mrs Low, the Hon Mrs Mernell, the Hon Enskine and Mrs Guinness, the Hon David and Mrs Guinness, the Hon David and Mrs

Howard, the Hon Alistair and Mrs
Campbell, the Hon Rupert and Mrs
Carington, the Hon Vivian and Mrs
Barings, the Hon Mrs Zamira Mcnuhin
Benihali, the Hon Lady Bonsor, the
Hon Mrs Bromage.

The Hon James and Mrs Bruce, the
Hon Parick and Lady Forte, the Hon
Clive and Mrs Glison, the Hon David
and Mrs Russell, the Hon Mrs Tom
Sachville, the Hon Michael and Mrs
Sarquel, the Hon Mrs Spring, the Hon
Rupert and Mrs Soames, the Hon
Rupert and Mrs Soames, the Hon
Robin and Mrs Warrender, the Hon
Raymond and Mrs Bonham-Carrer,
the Hon Lady de Zulueta, the Hon Mrs
de Rentor Parisborn, Sir Jonstyn GoreBooth, Jane Lady Abdy, Sir Tohlas and
Lady Clarke. Sir Anthony and Lady
Weldon, Ruth Lady Wolfson, Sir
Richard Evans (British Aerospace),
Lady (Maris Barling, Sir Isalah Berlin,
OM, and Lady Berlin, Sir Kenneth and
Lady Bond, Sir Christopher Harding,
Sir Peter and Lady Harding, Sir Peter
Heap, Sir Jeremy Isaacs.

Sif Peter and Lady Levene, Sir Sydney
and Lady Moser, Admiral Sir Jolian
Oswald, Sir Charles and Lady Powell
Lady Wolser, Admiral Sir Jolian
Oswald, Sir Charles and Lady Powell
Lady Moser, Admiral Sir Jolian
Oswald, Sir Charles and Lady Powell
Collin Southgair (Thorn-EM), Sir John
Tooley, Lady (Cheartes) Villers.

Mr Fand the Hon Mrs Tim Sooth, Mr
Simon and Lady Villa Prior-Palmer,
Mr Roderick and Lady Celestria Hales,
Mr Frank and Lady Ratharine Glies,
Mr Frank and Lady Ratharine Glies,
Mr Frank and Hady Ratharine Glies,
Mr Frank and Hady Ratharine Glies,
Mr Frank and He Hon Mrs Othver
Debarge, Mr and the Hon Mrs Simon
Dicklisson, Mr and the Hon Mrs Sohn
Danliovich, Mr and the Hon Mrs Sohn
Danliovich, Mr and the Hon Mrs Robert
Waley-Cohen.

Archdule Ferdinand won Habsburg
of Austria. Prince and Princess Rupert von Freussen, Frince and
Princess Rupert von Freussen, Frince and
Princess Rupert von Freussen, Frince and
Princess Rupert von Preussen, Frince and
Princess Rupert von Freussen, Frince Charles Caior. Mr and Mrs John Chandris. Mr and Mrs Michael Chandon, Mr and Mrs Roger Charlton, Mr and Mrs Sebastian de Ferranti, Mrs Richad Cayner, Mr and Mrs Anithony Gee. Mr Olive Gilmoor. M and Mrs Anithony Gee. Mr Olive Gilmoor. M and Mrs Andre Giraud, Mr and Mrs John Goodwin, Mrs David Abell, Mrs James Adeane. Mr John Goodwin, Mrs David Abell, Mrs James Adeane. Mrs David Mrs Anithony Mrs Andrews Agus, Mr and Mrs Real Alexander. Mrs Parlangam and Puan Sri Suguna Arumugam. Mrs Ian Balding, Milas Anne Beckwith-Smith, and Mrs Tom Hamilton-Ballille. Mr and Mrs Gerald Harford, Mr and Mrs Tom Hamilton-Ballille. Mr and Mrs Gerald Harford, Mr and Mrs Denis Haynes. Mr Christopher Heath, Mr Clifford Henderson, Mrs Grifford Henderson, Mrs Grifford Henderson, Mrs Grifford Henderson, Mrs Mrs W R Herd. Mr James Hervey-Bathurst. Mr and Mrs Mar Mrs Parick Holcroft, Squadron-Leader J R Blird, Mr Michael Bell.

Mr Thomas Brushell, Mr David Brown, Mr J Hornsty, Mr and Mrs Parlick Holcroft, Squadron-Leader J R Blird, Mr Michael Bell.

Mr Thomas Brushell, Mr David Brown, Mr and Mrs Parlick Holcroft, Squadron-Leader J R Blird, Mr Heinz Durr, Mr and Mrs Nation Mrs Holm Mrs Rush de Savary, Mr Simon & Zoete, Mr and Mrs Adrian de Stern, Mr and Mrs Holm Doggart, Mr and Mrs John Davies. Her Mrs Heinz Durr, Mr and Mrs Simon & Zoete, Mr and Mrs Hubert Doggart, Mr and Mrs Roger Lewis, ert Propert, Mr

Memorial concert

Aliged Shenkman, Mr and Mrs Mark Seilgman, Dr and Mrs David Sopher. Dr and Mrs M spine.

Mr and Mrs M spine.

Mr and Mrs M spine.

Mr and Mrs Ronald StewartBrown, Major G G E Stibbe. Mr Mark Swize Mrs Mark Corp. PritchardGordon, Mr Julian Gibbs. Mr Mark Swize Mrs Marin Taylor, Mr and Mrs A Turnbull, Mrs John Vincent, Mr and Mrs Philip Warner, Mr and Mrs M whitnaker. Mr Charles Wishart, Mrs M wolft, Mr Charles Wishart, Mrs M wolft, Mr Nicholas Wood, Mr Richard Wood, Mr Peter Wragg, Mr Henry Wyndhan.

Mr Andrew Lorenz (The Sunday Mrs Mrs Andrew Lorenz (The Sunday Mrs Mrs Andrew Lorenz (The Sunday Mrs Mrs Andrew Lorenz (The Guand Mrs Mrs Century Foundation) and Mr Bernard Gray (Financial Times), Mr alan Bytne (The Racing Post), Miss Ann Churchill (Eversheed), Mr Claud Months (The New Century Foundation) and Mrs Mortis (The New Century Foundation) and Mrs Rolling and Mr Rolling Mrs Andrews (EMI), Mr Mr Mrs Estimon Duffy and Mrs Aviation).

Miss Susie Cooper

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Stoke-on-Trent, the Mayor and Mayoress of Newcastle under-Lyme and the Leader of Staffordshire County Council at-tended a memorial service for Miss Susie Cooper, ceramics ex-pert, held yesterday at the Church of St Peter ad Vincula, Stoke-on-Trent. The Rev Graham McNamee, Chaplain of Staffordshire Univer-sity, officiated, assisted by the Rev

Edgar Ruddock.
Ms Barbara Morris, great niece, Mrs Sharon Gater and Ms Lynn Miller, Wedgwood Museum, Ms Ann Eatwell, V & A Museum, Ms Kathy Niblett, Stoke-on-Trent Museum, Mr Paul Niblett, Mr Bryan Youds, Chairman of the Susie Cooper Collectors' Group, and Mr John Ryan, Wedgwood Group, paid tribute.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY
Sir Raymond Appleyard. biologist,
74: Mr Robin Bailey, acror, 77: Mr
John Bridgeman. Director-General
of Fair Trading. S2: Professor Sir
Malcolm Brown, geologist, 71; Mr
Ray Clemence, footballer, 48: Miss
Stephanie Cole. actress. 55: Mr
Sebastian de Ferranti, former chairman. Ferranti, 69: Sir John Dent,
former chairman, Civil Aviation Authority. 73: Mr Bob Geldof. KBE, rock
singer and initiator, Band Ald, 45: the singer and initiator, Band Ald. 45: the Right Rev Robert Hardy. Bishop of Lincoln. 60; Mr Václav Havel. President of the Czech Republic. 60: Lord Holderness, 76: Miss Elly Jansen, founder, Richmond Fellowship. 67; Miss Glynis Johns, actress. 73; Mr Robert Kee, broadcaster, 77; Mr

Herbert Kretzmer, journalist and lyricist, 7l; Mrs Kate Losinska, trade unionist, 72; Mr David Mellor, silversmith and designer, 66; Mr Bruce Millan. former MP, 69; Sir Edward Peck, diplomat. 81; Sir Douglas Ranger, otolaryngologist, 80: Mr Richard Rosser, trade unionist, 52; Mr Timothy Smith. MP, 49; Sir Richard Thompson, former MP, 34; Mr Adair Turner, Director-General, CBI, 41; Mr Dave Watson, footballer, 50.

Mr Jarvis Astaire, deputy chairman, Wembley Stadium, 73; Mr Richie Benaud, sports commentator, 66: Sir Alfred Blake, former director, The

81; Mr William Buford, former Editor, Granta, 42; Mr Richard Caborn, MP, 53; Baroness Castle of Blackburn, 86; Major-General P.A.J. Cordingley, 52; Lord Cullen of Ashbourne, 84; Lord Donaldson of Lymington, 76; Mr Tony Greig, cricketer, 50; Sir Michael Hardie Boys, former Covernor-General of New Zealand, 65; Dr Thor Heyerdahl, author and anthropologist, 82; Mr Tommy Lawton, former foxballer, 77; Mr David Maland, former High Master, Manchester Grammar High Master, Manchester Grammar School, 67: Admiral Sir Derek Reffell Service of America Strategy of the Honour Sir William Stable, QC, 83; Field Marshal Sir John Stanier, 71; Miss Jennifer Tanhum, research consultant. 67; Miss Helen Wills Moody, tennis champion, 91.



The broadcaster Melvyn Bragg is 57 tomorrow

TODAY

TOMORROW

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev S Calhie: 5.45 EP. SCHIME 5.485 EF, STRATION E [5: 1] Family Communion, Rev D Richards, Prelude in C (Bach); 6.30 Welcome Service for Students, Rev J Fishantian

Bach; 6.30 Welcome Service for Students, Rev J
Richardson.

ST LUKES, Chelses, SW3: 10.30 Harvest Euch,
Thou visitest the earth (Greene), Tanzum Ergo
(Nicholson), Rev G Beauchamp; 12.15 HC; 6.30
E, Ave Maria (Dupre, Rev G Beauchamp;
ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 10.30
Parish Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydri),
Ladibus in Sanctis (Byrd), Rev D Houlding
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S
Euch, Missa in honorem sancti (Rubbra), Les all
mortal flesh (Balrstow), Canon D Gray.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WCZ: 8.12.30 HC,
Rev W Raichlord; 9.45 Euch, Rev B
Schunemann; 11.30 Visitors, Rev A Hurst: 2.45
Chilnese, Rev G Lee; 3 Pearlies Harvest Festival,
The Vicar; 5 Choral E: 6.30 Evening.
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8:
8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Rev F Gelli; 11.15
Choral M, The Vicar, 6.30 E, Rev F Gelli;
ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC;

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Leighton in D. Thou visitest the earth (Greene). Rev I Ovenden: 6 Choral E. Stantord in C. ST PETER'S, Eaton Square 5W1: 8.15 HC (1652); 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa a 4 (1651) (Monteverdi), Deus miserearur (Purcell). Fr W Keyes. CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA. HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC, Rev P.Abram; 11 M & Sermon, Harwood In Ab, Sing Joyfully (Mundy), Rev P Abram. (Münoy), Rev P Abram. CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Rev

11:15 Subth. Chiegion Regate (riovens), key
Booth.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Rampton Court Paince: 8.30
HC (1662), ii M. Vaughan Williams in
G/Jackson in G. Lucus Iste (Bruckner): 3.30
Choral Euch & Confirmation, Darke in F. Litany
to the Holy Spirit (Hurford).
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street,
Wi: 8.15 HC: 11 S Euch, Mass in D K194
(Mozard, O God thou art my God (Purcell), Rev S
Hobbs. HOODS.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S

EOCH, Darke in F. The Chapiain.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH. Fleet Street: 8.30 HC:

11.15 MP, Te Deum Laudamus (Stanford in C),

Jubliate Dee (Stanford in C), I was glad (Parry).

The Master.

JAB MASIET.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SWI:

II Chdral HC, Missa Brevis in Bb (Mozari KV275), God so loved the world (Stainer), Band of the Scots Guards, Rev C Walker. ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL Greenwich. SEIG: I S Euch (BCP). Darke in F. Thou visiteth the earth (Greene), Rev C French.

Forthcoming | Marriages marriages

Mr S.J. Allen and Miss M.C. Pilkington The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs L Allen, of Walsall, and Clare, second daughter of Mr and Mrs D.G. Pilkington, of

Mr C.O. Brunner

and Miss H.C. Gatacre The engagement is announced between Conrad, youngest son of Mrs Helen Brunner-Spira and Mr Barnabus Brunner, of Norting Hill Gate. London, and Cecily, third daughter of Mrs John Wells, of Chapel Farm. East Chitington. Sussex, and Mr E.V. Gatacre, of De Wiersse, Vorden, The

The Hon J.S.G. Catto and Miss K.M. Lawton The engagement is announced between James, son of Lord and Lady Catto, of Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, and Kathryn (Wiggy), elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Lawton, of Aldbourne,

Dr D.R. Humphreys and Miss C.R.M. De Jaeger The engagement is announced between David, only and Mrs David William Humphreys, of Southampton, Hampshire, and Colette, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Ignace De Jaeger, of Dover, Kent.

Mr M.G. McCord

Wilshire.

and Miss T.M. Shimwell The engagement is announced between Michael Geelhaar, son of Mrs Elsbeth McCord and the late Mr George Albert McCord, of Ballasalla, Isle of Man, and Tania Melanie, daughter of Mrs Parnela Shimwell and the late Mr Derrick

Mr P.H. Renton and Mile E.Y.M. Thirouin
The engagement is announced
between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs Colin Renton, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and Edwige, eldest daughter of M and Mme Jean Thirouin, of Chartres France

Mr M. Walford and Miss T. Honeyman

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Tom Walford, of Highgate, London, and Tannera, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ewen Honeyman, of Edinburgh.

Mr J.B. Whittingham and Miss M.E. Camsey

Granville and Maureen Camsey, of The White House, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan Elizabeth, to James Benedict, son of Paul and Janice Whittingham, of Barn Hay, Long Ashton, Bristol.

Mr R.D. Leatham and Miss G.S. Mounsey The marriage took place yesterday at St Paul's. Knightsbridge, of r Richard David Leatham, son of Mr Simon and Lady Victoria Leathern, of Burghley House,

Stamford, to Miss Georgina Susan Mounsey, youngest daughter of Mr Simon Mounsey and the late Mrs Mounsey, of Pithdown, East Sussex. The Rev Christopher Courtauld, Canon Derek White-head and the Rev Brian Close

officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her lather, was attended by Georgiana Culverhouse, Cecily Leatham, Laura Bruce, Lucy Gore and Bobby Leigh-Pemberton. The Hon Piers Portman was best man. A reception was held at Boodle's

and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr J.S.E. Lynn and Miss S.L.M. Birtwistle The marriage took place yesterday at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, of Mr Julian Stirling Emmet Lynn, son of Mrs Graeme Hamilton and step-son of Mr Graeme Hamilton of Eastling, Kent, to Miss Social Louise Mary Birtwistle, youngest daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Anthony Birtwistle, of Rogate, West Sussex. Father Anthony Meredith. SJ, and Father Kevin Grif-

fin. officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was at-tended by Charlotte Oliver, Lucy Pawle, Emily Reid and Victoria Pawle, Dr Christopher Rowland Payne was best man.

A reception was held at the Hyde Park Hotel and the honeymoon will be spent in Mauritius Mr J.J. Williams

and Miss K.M.M. Leach The marriage took place on Sat-urday, September 28, at the Parish Church of St Anne, Kew, between Mr Jeremy Williams, elder son of Colonel and Mrs F.J.K. Williams, of the Wirral, and Miss Katharine Leach, only daughter of Mr and

Mrs John Leach, of Kew. Bishop John Austin Baker officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was at-tended by Charlotte and Olivia Dingwall-Fordyce, Isobel Leach, Joe Toomey and wall-Fordyce. Mr Richard

A reception was held at Svon Park and the honeymoon will be spent in South Africa. Mr I.M. Willis

and Frau A. Müller

The marriage took place on Sat-urday, September 28, 1996, at Christ Church, Bath, of Mr Ian Willis, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Frank Willis, of Farndon, Chester, to Frau Andrea Müller, youngest daughter of Herr and Frau Heinz-Dieter Müller, of Rötgesbüttel, Hanover.

A reception was held at the Royal Crescent Hotel, Bath.

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: Denis Diderot, philosopher and encyclopaedist. Langres, France, 1713; William Wilkie, "the Scottish Homer", Dalmeny, 1721; William Scoresby, clergyman and Arctic explorer, Whitby, 1789; Robert Hutchings Goddard, pioneer of rocketry, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1882. DEATHS: Charles Cornwallis, 1st

Marquess Cornwallis, soldier and statesman, Ghazipore, India, 1805; Jacques Offenbach, composer, Paris, 1880; Jean Vigo, film director. Paris: 1934: Leonard Rossiter. actor and comedian, London, 1984. Bulgaria declared its independence from Turkey, 1908.

Sir Arthur Lee donated Chequers to the nation as a country retreat for British prime ministers. 1917. The RIOI airship crashed near Beauvais, France, killing 47 people, 1930.

The Jarrow march of the unimployed began their journey to London, 1936.

TOMORROW BIRTHS: Nevil Maskelyne, Astronomer Royal 1765-1811,

London, 1732: Louis-Philippe, King of the French 1830-48, Paris, 1773: Thomas Attwood, Chartist leader. Halesowen, Worcestershire, 1783; Jenny Lind, soprano. Stockholm, 1820: Le Corbusier (Charles-Edouard Jeanneret), chitect, La Chaux-de-Fonds Switzerland, 1887; Sammy Price, jazz pianist and bandleader, Honey Grove, Texas, 1908.

DEATHS: William Tyne's e. translator of the Bible, burnt a restake, Vilvorde, Belgium, 1536; Charles Stewart Parnell chartepion of Home Rule for Ireland. Brighton, 1891; William Henry Smith, statesman and bookseller, London, 1891; Alfred Tennyson, 1st Baron Tennyson, Poet Laureate 1850-92, Aldworth, Surrey, 1892: George Du Maurier, caricaturist and novelist, London, 1896; Mohamed Anwar El-Sadat, President of Egypt 1970-81, assassinated, Cairo, 1981. The Mormons in Utah renounced

/ **i** .

bigamy, 1890. Warner Brothers premiered the first feature-length talking film The Jazz Singer, starring Al Jolson, in New York, 1927.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

IN MEMORIAM --

BELLAMY - In ever loving memory of my dear brother, Oliver Bellamy, killed in action in Washistan on 5th October 1937, aged 22 Incr

IN MEMORIAM —

and parents.

TEALE - John "Bobby" Carden,
R.I.P., 6th October 1994
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the passing days: the loss is
cumulative". N and M.

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BIRTHDAYS

PRIVATE

PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

MG-On October 2nd, to Julie (née Maude) and Tom, a daughter, Olivia Clare Victoria

MOWELL - On September 26th, at The Fortland Hospital, to Alison (née Blair) and Tremayn, a daughter, Eloise Victoria, a sister for Holly and Briony.

PARSES - On September 30th, at The Portland Hospital, to Karen and Ted, a beautiful son, Harry Leonard, a brother for jude and George.

STEWART - On August 9th, to Ann (née Griffiths) and Ray, a son, Luke William, abrother for Kathryn.

BIRTHS ALDOSERI - On September 26th at The Portland Hospital, to Khawla and Khalifa a handsome boy Ahmed, a brother for Yousif BARCLAY - On September 28th, to Lucy (née Bobb) and Simon, a son, Benjamin Henry

BIDGOOD - On September 28th, at The Fortland Hospital, a son Elliot to complete our happiness. Nigel, Karen and Warrick thank all who helped on the DAWNAY - On 28th September, at St. Mary's Paddington, to Eachel (nee johnson) and Ivo, a son, Oliver Payan. A brother for Ludo and Millie.

de ROEPER - On September 30th, to Sophio (née Lund) and Charles, a son, Joe, a brother to Miles and Lucy. ELTON - On 2nd October 1996 to Victoria (née Farrow) and Nicholat, a son, Louis, a brother to Maximilian. FRICK - Adrian Brune, born in Zurich, Switzerland on 11th August 1996, to Mr Bulma Frick and Mrs Genevière Ann Frick (née Gordon Lennozi

FURNISS - On October 1st 1996, to Isabel (née Sherwoot King) and Colin, a som Edward John Sherwood **GUTHRIE** - On 17th September GUTHEE - On 17th September 1996, to Patricia (née Whitty) and Alastair, a daughter, Emma Louise. HOOGSOM - Mike and Emma me very proud to amounce the birth of their daughter, Hannah Mary, on 28th September 1996.

YOURIG - On Sunday June 9th but home today, to Joanu (hie Cherry) and Robert, : son, Sebastian Alexande James. ADOPTIONS Charles, born in Francisco Beltrao, Parané, Brazil on 29th March 1995, adopted by Mr Iam Charles and the Bev Jeitje Gordon Lennex of Geneva, Switzswinst RUBY **ANNIVERSARIES** MEZONICLARK - On the 6th October 1956 at St Mary's Farish Church, Great Dunmow, Philip Walter Minon of Hutton, Essex, to Fatzicia May Ciark of Great Ounmow, Essex, Now at 'Adnah Garth', Froggatt Edga, Derbyshire, Tel: 01433-630554. SEMENTOY - On 30th September 1996, to Annia (née Muirhead) and John, a daughter, Matlida Emily Muirhead, a sister for

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

WHITTALL:POUSCHINE - On October 5th 1936 at St. Philip's Russian Orthodox Church London 5W1, Geoffrey William Whittall to Barbara Pouschine.

DEATHS

BOULTON - On Wednesday October 2nd 1996 at Cambridge, Mary Diana, aged 81 years. Requiem Mass at the Church of Our Lady and the English Martys, Hills Road, Cambridge, on Wednesday October 9th at 2.15pm to be followed by cremation.

CLYDESMUIR - Honald John BRaiand Colville 2nd Baron, K.T. On 2nd October 1996 at Kello Hospital, Biggar, aged 79, peacefully after a long lilness. Much loved husband of Joan, father of Diana, David, Andrew and Amne and dear grandfather, Funeral service in Biggar, Kick on Monday 7th October 1996 at 2.30 pm. Family Howers only please but donations, if desired, to the Fairmile Marie Curie Centre, Edinburgh, A Memorial Service will be held at a later date in St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh.

COLVIN - Major Leslie Hubert Boyd MC, Ex 2nd Battallon Liucolashire Regiment Peacefully on 2nd October in Maldon, Essex, aged 88. Private funeral, Memorial

DEATHS

EVANS - Dr D. Colin, of Amersham, Bucks, suddenly on 2nd October aged 53. Beloved husband of Ann and loving lather of Buw, Richard and Gereth, son of Mrs A Evans and the late Mr D. L. Evans of Amendiord, and hother of Hugh. Colin will be safty missed by all who knew him. Funeral to take place on Wednesday October 9th st 1.30pm st The Chiltenna Crematorium, Amersham. Family flowers only, but Gonations to the

Amerikam. Family accounts on the British Eidney Patient Association, Bordon, Hampshire GUSS 972 would be greatly appreciated.

be granty appreciated.

HAYWARD - On 1st October suddenly in Harrogare, aged 36 years, Phyllis Hayward, formerly of Eoundhay and Wetherby, dearly loved aunt of Peter and great-sunt of Sarah and Dickon. Service at Christ Church Harrogate, on Thursday 10th October at 1 pm. Enquiries Swainsons (01423) 504571.

KERR - Andrew. Suddenly at home in Switzerland on September 20th, 1996, aged 58 years. Much loved husband of Kathieen and devoted father to Barbara and Michael.

ROSENTELD - Sybil, Thentre Historian, suddenly, at home, on 2nd October. Funezal 1230pm, Tuesday 8th October at Golders Green Crematorium, West Chapel.

SPANOGUE - On October 4th 1996, at his home in Painswick, Gloucesterniare, Feter Alin, aged 92 years. The funeral service will take place at 11.30 am, on Thursday 10th October at Cheltenham Crematorium. Family flowers only by

Chettennam Crematorium. Family flowers only by request, but donations in lieu may be made to the Painswick Surgery Special Equipment Fund, clo The Surgery, Hoyland House, Painswick.

TYLDESLEY-JONES - On 1st October 1996 in his 81st year, Bayil Humphrey Tyldesley-Jones.

Visites the card (Greene, Conon C Smith, SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, The Provost: 11 Choral Euch, Nunc Dimitris (Burgoni, Hear my prayer (Purcell), The Provost: 3 Choral E. Stanford in C. Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn), The Bishop: 6.30 Book of Common Prayer (1662) Choral Euch, Missa O Quam gioriosum (Victoria), Save us O Lord (Balrstow), O salutaris hostia (Elgar), Rev A Nunn. TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M: 10 S Euch-Collegium Regale (Howells), For thy tender mercies sake (Faranti Hillon), The Curale 6 E, Brewer in E flat, Ave verum corpus (Byrd), The Treasurer WAREFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Baxier; 9.15 Parish Continuntion. Cation D Baxier; 11 Solemn Euch. Whitlock in G, Te Deum, & Benedictus (Sumston in G), Rev A Jennings; 3 Bishop's Certicate Service; 6.30 E, Sumston in G, Ubi caritas & Tantum ergo (Durullé), Canon I Knoz. WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M. Te Deum & Jubilate in C (Brinen), Locus iste (Bruckner), Canon D Gray: 11.15 Euch, Missa Trinitatis Sanctae (Grier), Sei me as a seal (Walton), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Sis H Markey: 3 E, Thou mastering me God (Harvey), Catherine Shelley: 5.45 Organ Rectial; 6.30 Evening, Canon D Hutt. WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 7.35 M; 10.30 Harvest Thanksgiving Euch, Mass for five voices (Berseley). Clavit eos (Byrd), Toccata in D minor (Buttehude), Rev J Andrew: 3.30 E. Jackson in G. O quam gloriosum (Moore). Rev G Taylor. Taylor.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC: 9.30 M; 10 S Euch,
Missa brevis (Mozari), Rev Dr J Chancellor.

11.30 S Euch, Missa in simplicitare (Langlais): 2
Animal Christian Concern: 4 E. Jackson in G.
Thou wilt keep him (Wesley). Rev Prof E
Norman. ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC: 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Very Rev K Goulstone; 3.30 Choral E. ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Southwark 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 Solemn Mass, Rev J Cronin; 3.30 Adult Confirmations, Archbishop Michael. ST MACRAR'S CATHEDRAL; 1 Rev R Frazer, The Deeside Charisters, Seek ye the Lord

Church services tomorrow

Durston: 10 Euch, Canon J Osborne, Mozart in D K194, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Canon D Durston: 11.30 M, Te Deum & Jubilare in C (Britisen), Gaelle Blessing (Rutter), Ven J Maples: 3 E. Walmiskey in D minor, Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley); 7.30 Concert.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, St Nicholas Mass (Haydri), Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), Canon T Page; 2 Housebound Euch, Canon C Smith; 6.30 Harvest Pestival E & Sermon, Collegium Regale (Howells), Thou visitest the carth (Greene), Canon C Smith.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC: 8.45 M: It I S Euch, Messe Solemnelle in C sharp minor (Vieme), Cantique de Jean Radne (Faure), ven C Cassigly, 3.15 E. Mendelssohn in B flat, How lovely is thy dwetling place (Brahms), Rev Dr M Bander. sanner.

All. SOULS. Langham Place. WI: 9
Communion: 11 Mr D Turner, 6.30 Guest
Service, Rev R Tice.

IHE ANNUNCIATION, Bryanston St. WI: 11
Solemn Mass with Harvest Thanksgiving.
Communion Service in G (Stanford), Jublisie
Deo (Britten). THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11
Missa sine nomine (Heredia), O praise the Lord
(Batten), Ave Maria (Arcadeli). CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children: 11 Parish Communion, Rev Dr P Elvy: 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy. CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 HC, Rev S Hood: 6.30 HC, Rev S Hood. 10. 1 | Mass. Missa Ave Maria (Palestrina), Torus sutus (Gorecki) (2.30. 4.30, 7 Mass: 3.30 V & 8, Benedicam nos (Victoria). ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns. W8:1! Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian. WESLEYS CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11 Morning & HC, Rev Dr L Griffiths. WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 Rev B Lucas; 6.30 HC, Rev E Fletcher. SW 1: 11 KeV B LIEBS, 0.30 PIC, Rev E PIEUCHE.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smilithfield,
EC 1: 9 HC: 11 Choral Euch, Missa Triste depart
(Lassus), Super (lumina Babylonis (Palestrina),
The Rector, 6.30 E, Murrilli In E, O where shall
wisdom be found (Boyce), The Rector. ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch. Mass in B flat (Schubert), O lovely peace (Handel). Hars-Rudolf Gehrmann; 3.30 Choral E. We wait for Thy loving kindness (McKle), Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (Murrill in E., O clap your hands (Glibbons). ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. Pont Street, SW1: 11 Harvest Thanksgiving & Rededication, Rev W Cairus: 6,30 Choir Praise.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Missa Quard Toni (Victoria). Cantase Domino a 5 (Hasler), Ave Yenum [Phillips). ST GEORGE'S. Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Mass in D [Williams]. The Rector. ST JAMES'S, Garifchythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch (1662), John Paul, Rector. ST JAMES'S, Sussez Gardens, W2: 10.30 S Euch, Missa "Le bien que l'air (Goudimel), Be careful for nothing (Purcell), Rev D Lawson: 6 E. Fauxbourdons (Andreas), Cibavit eos (Byrd).

BIRTHDAYS

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Betty Gathergood, curator of Dr Johnson's House, died on September 25 aged 80. She was born on February 18, 1916.

BETTY CATHERGOOD was almost as closely associated with Dr Johnson's house in Gough Square as the great man of letters himself had been. As a child she grew up there, playing with her dolls in the powder room where 18th-century ladies and gentlemen had once dusted their periwigs, or curling up to read her book on the low window seats.

As a young woman she met her future husband there, and it was there, in the high Georgian rooms, that they celebrated their wedding and, later, the christening of their son. As an elderly but still gallant and sprightly woman of 77, she became curator of the house — as her mother and grandmother had been before her — and, fittingly, it was there, at 17 Gough Square, that her friends were to gather last year to celebrate her Suh banday party. It was Cecil Harmsworth (later Lord

Harmsworth) - the brother of the press barons Lord Northelifle and Lord Rothermere — who first bought Dr Johnson's House to run it as a charitable trust. As a young man, Harmsworth often used to pass through Gough Square and was shocked to discover that No 17, the house where Samuel Johnson had lived and worked on his dictionary, was due for demolition. Ignoring the warnings of those who advised him against doing so. he purchased the freehold of the house in 1911 and, having restored the building, opened it to the public the next year.

Bertha Phyllis Rowell (as she was before her marriage) first went to live in the house in 1919 when she was only three years old. She was brought over from America where her parents had emigrated after their marriage, but after the death of her father, her mother had returned to

Betty's grandmother, Isabelle Dyble, had by this time been curator of Dr Johnson's house ever since it had first been opened to the public. She was living

BETTY GATHERGOOD



in the "lodge", a picturesque old-fashioned corrage with brass gaspipes and lead plumbing which had been purposebuilt as a home for the custodian. It was she who had looked after and preserved the building throughout the difficult years of the First World War, when, it was said, she had devoted herself to reading Dr Johnson's work, turning for solace at times of need to his prayers or his dictionary. "My old man," as she used affectionately to refer to Johnson, would solve her problems for her, she used to

A few years after moving in with her, Betty's mother, Phyllis Rowell, took over the curatorship of 17 Gough Square. She could rest and find refreshment there.

was to remain in this post for nearly forty years, caring for the house and keeping it open to the public even during the perilous years of the Second World War when it was to be almost destroyed three times by incendiary bombs.

Indeed, during the war the house became something of a haven for members of the Auxiliary Fire Service, whose valiant task it was to minimise the damage caused by these bombs. With help from friends and financial donations from City firms, Betty and her mother assembled a collection of chairs, beds, mattresses and even a piano, and moved them into the house so that the firemen

Many of them, it turned out, were members of the London Symphony Orchestra, and on tranquil nights strains of Handel or Bach could be heard drifting through the darkness of the square.

Edward Gathergood was the name of one of these firefighters and it was there. in 17 Gough Square, that he courted Berry. He carried her as his bride over the threshold of the house in 1942.

On her mother's retirement in 1962, Betty Gathergood did not take over the curatorship immediately. Instead, Margaret Eliot was to serve in this post for more than thirty years. But after her unexpected death in 1993 Betty Gathergood became the third generation of her family to take over custodianship of the house.

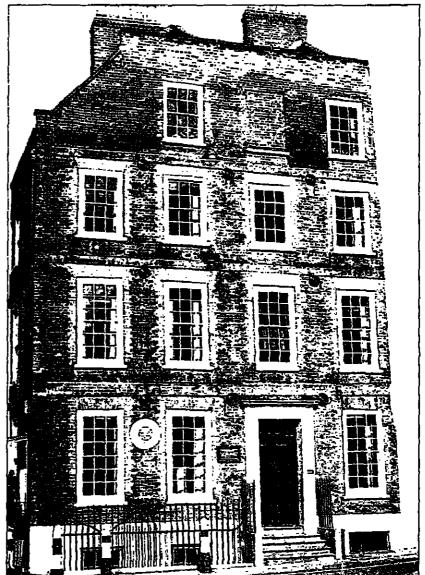
Dust and noise pervaded her first years in the post. Although the basement had already been refurbished and the interior decoration overseen, the exterior had to be attended to. War damage had never been repaired. Furthermore, there was severe cracking in the walls of the custodian's cottage which had subsided after major building works in the vicinity. A severe flood in 1903 precipitated the need for this repair work and while it was under way. Betty Gathergood had to move, commuting from Windsor every day.

Unperturbed by the inconvenience. however, she continued to encourage groups of visitors to visit the house. It was said that it was her magnetism, courtesy and infectious enthusiasm for the original occupant of 17 Gough Square - she was a mine of stories - that proved one of the greatest attractions to those who came to see the house.

Meanwhile she was hard at work with Dr Beryl Andrews from Cambridge cataloguing the library and attending to the long-neglected records of other items in the house. She even unearthed a few previously undiscovered historical treasures.

She had completed a substantial amount of this project before she became too ill to continue.

Betty Gathergood's husband predeceased her. She is survived by a son.



Betty Gathergood and the house at 17 Gough Square, off Fleet Street, where Dr Johnson lived and compiled his famous dictionary

SABINE ZLATIN

rescuer of Jewish children, died in Paris on September 21 aged 89. She was born in Warsaw on January 13, 1907. IN FRANCE she was known

Sabine Zlatin, wartime

simply as "the lady of Izieu". Sabine Zlatin saved the lives of more than a hundred Jewish children in southern France during the Second World War: first as a visiting nurse in internment camps, then as the founder of a children's refuge. But it was the memory of a group of those she was unable to save that came to dominate her life: some 40 children taken from her refuge at Izieu in April 1944 and sent to Auschwitz on the orders of Klaus Barbie, the notorious Gestapo chief of Lyons. Sabine Zlatin was born into

a gwish family, the Schwasts, ii, Warsaw, In 1923, at the age of 16, she was imprisoned for taking part in a demonstration by the Bund, a Jewish workers' organisation. On her release, she left for France where she met and married an agronomist, Miron Zlatin. The couple ran a poultry farm in northern France, and became French citizens in 1939.

When war broke out. Sabine Zlatin joined the Red Cross and after the French collapse, went south to serve in a military hospital in Montpellier. Soon, however, she was dismissed from her post under the anti-Semitic laws of the Vichy regime. She began instead to work with the Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants, an organisation which aimed to rescue children who

were at risk of deportation. It was as an extension of this work that in 1943, at some personal risk, she founded the home at Izieu, a small village a small vinage shout 70 miles east of Lyons. the hills overlooking the Rhone. A farmhouse in an idyllic setting, it served as a holiday home and refuge for Jewish children, who would then be spirited over the border into Switzerland.

For a while the authorities seem to have turned a blind eye, and Ziatin had managed to smuggle more than 100



Sabine Zlatin arriving at the courthouse in Lyons to testify against the former Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie in 1987

children to safety when she was betrayed by a neighbouring farmer. On April 6, 1944, the Nazis arrived, led by Klaus Barbie, the Gestapo chief who became known as the "Butcher of Lyons". More than forty children aged between three and 13 were taken away, together with members of the home's staff, including Miron Zlatin. According to a farmworker who witnessed the raid, the children were

"brutally loaded into lorries as by firing squad in Estonia. if they were sacks of potatoes". Sabine Zlatin was not at lzieu at the time. On discovering what had occurred she attempted to appeal to the Vichy authorities, but was contemptuously turned away. The Roman Catholic Church, too, refused to help. From the Paris suburb of Drancy, most

of those taken were shipped to

Auschwitz, Miron Zlatin and

two of the children were killed

Only one man escaped. For the rest of the war Zlatin was a member of the Resistance, and after the Liberation she helped to resettle people who had been deported. Later she worked as a courier, an artist, and as a dealer and expert in rare books. But most of her energy and all of her passion went into preserving the memory of what had happened at Izieu.

chairman, and Mr Ray Farrell.

bers and their guests at dinner last

night at the Savoy Hotel after the

annual conference held at Lin-coln's Inn and a reception at Farrer

Fullers and Shearmen of Exeter

Mr R.L. Persey, Master of the Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers

and Shearmen of Exeter, the

Wardens and the Court of Assis-

tants were the hosts at a dinner

held last night at Tuckers' Hall,

Incorporation of Weavers,

Her greatest desire was to see those responsible brought to justice. In this she was not alone. The fate of the Izieu children was one of the factors that drove the French-Jewish lawyer Serge Klarsfeld and his wife Beate to spend 15 years tracking down Klaus Barbie, who had settled in Bolivia after the war. When the former Gestago

chief was finally extradited to France in 1987, the charges relating to Izieu were central to the case against him: indubitably crimes against humanity, they were unaffected by any statute of limitations that might by then have prevented his being tried for war crimes. More importantly, there was documentary evidence linking Barbie to the raid on the home, in the form of a detailed telex actually recording the raid's completion and sent to Gestano headquarters in Paris. Barbie denied being present at Izieu, insisting at first that he had signed the telex only "because Eichmann's men were away". He later claimed that the telex was forged.

When the case came to trial, Zlatin was in Lyons to testify, and to hear Serge Klarsfeld recite, one by one, the names of the children and details of their lives: Georgy Halpern, aged 8: Barouk-Raoul Benitou, aged 12; Joseph Goldberg. aged 12: Maurice Gerenstein, aged 13 ... "For 43 years." Zlatin said, "I have carried lzieu in my heart. For the crime of Izieu, for this crime, there can be neither forgiveness nor forgetting." Barbie was sentenced to life

imprisonment; he died in 1991. Twice a year Zlatin returned to Izieu to honour the children. whose deaths were marked by a simple monument in front of the house, inscribed with their names. When the farm eventually came up for sale, she founded an association to huv it and turn it into a memorial museum. This was inaugurated in April 1994 by President Mitterrand, and contains all the letters, photographs and documentation that Zlatin could find, as well as drawings by the children.

Lord Clydesmuir, KT. CB, MBE, former

Governor of the Bank of Scotland and Lord-Lieutenant of Lanarkshire, died on October 2 aged 79. He was born on May 21, 1917.

DEBONAIR and with an erect military bearing and clipped white moustache. Ronnie Clydesmuir cut a distinguished figure in many aspects of Scottish life. His business enterprises were extensive and his charitable projects numerous. His military record was substantial and his service to the county of Lanarkshire undoubted. He served as Lord-Lieutenant of the county from 1963 to 1992.

Ronald John Bilsland Colville, 2nd Baron Clydesmuir, was the only son of John Colville, 1st Baron Clydesmuir, a former Secretary of State for Scotland, and Governor of Bombay (who was three times acting Viceroy of India in the interregnum periods between Viceroys).

The Colville family dates back to the early 1500s and originally had its seat in Roxburghshire. But Colvilles were long associated with Lanarkshire and, beside his political career, Ronnie Clydesmuir's father was a director of the family steelmaking firm, David Colville and Sons, which contributed much to the industrial history of Scotland. Ronnie himself was later to be involved in this enterprise as a director.

He was educated Charterhouse and Trinity College, Cambridge. He served in the Second World War with the Cameronians and was mentioned in dispatches. In 1944 he was appointed MBE.

Later, from 1953 to 1956, he commanded the 6th/7th Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) in the Territorial Army and was the recipient of the Territorial Decoration. He served as this regiment's honorary colonel from 1967 to 1971, and as president of the Lowlands of Scotland TA & VR Associations from 1968 to 1973. His business enterprises

were widespread. He was a deputy governor of the British Linen Bank, 1966-71, and of the Scottish Provident Institution from 1954. He was a director and then Governor of the Bank of Scotland. He also served as a director of, among

several other companies,

LORD CLYDESMUIR

Barclay's Bank. His charitable interests focused on physical education. He was chairman of the Scottish branch of the National Playing Fields Association, a trustee of King George's Fields Foundation and King George's Jubilee Trust, and president of the Scottish Council of Physical

Lord Clydesmuir served as a member of the Royal Company of Archers (The Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland) which he joined in the year of the Coronation, and of which he ultimately became Captain-General. Lady Clydesmuir handed back his Gold Stick to the Queen at Holyroodhouse in July 1996.

Recreation.

He succeeded to the title in October 1954 when his father died on the operating table after a pair of scissors had been left inside him.

Clydesmuir was appointed CB in 1963. He became a Deputy Lieutenant for Lanarkshire in 1955, rising to Vice-Lieutenant in 1959, before going on to serve as Lord-Lieutenant of the county, a post which he held for some 30 years. He also served as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1971 and 1972 and was appointed a Knight of the Thistle in 1972.

Clydesmuir enjoyed sporting life, especially shooting, When he was taken to hospital once, with appendicitis, the doctor, on removing the organ, found that the appendix was full of lead. "What on earth do you eat?" the doctor asked. Člydesmuir replied that he was fond of game.

One of Clydesmuir's last public appearances was at the Thistle ceremony at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh in July 1994. His death marks the fifth vacancy in the full complement of 16 knights.

He is survived by his wife, Joan, whom he married in 1946, and by their two sons and their daughter. His elder son David, succeeds to the



Service dinners and dinners

Service dinners

RN College Greenwich Lord Irvine of Lairg. QC, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Royal Navy risters held last night at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. Captain D.R. Humphrey, Chief Naval Judge Advocate, presided. The Second Sea Lord, the Judge Advocate of the Fleet, the Director of Legal Services RAF, the Chief Naval Supply and Secretariat Officer and the Commander of the College were among those present.

Royal Hampshire Regiment Brigadier R.G. Long attended the annual dinner of the Royal Hampthe Regiment Officers' Associ-ation held last night at Serle's House, Winchester, Lieutenant-Colonel H.D.H. Kearinge pre-

Scottish Officers' Liverpool Association Cuptain Edgar Chavasse, President of the Liverpool Scottish

Officers' Association, with mem bers and regimental guests dined last night at Forbes House. Childwall, to replicate a dinner held by the Officers of the Battalion in October 1916 at the Chateau Elverdinghe, near Ypres, to hon-our the award of the Victoria Cross to Captain Noel Chavasse. Major D.S. Evans, chairman, presided. Among others present were: Among outers present were:
Lecutenant-Commander lan Fraser,
vC. Lieutenant-Colonel D Tasker
(Commanding Officer 5th/9th
volunteer Banajion The King's
Regimenti and Colonel R J Murphy
(Commanding Officer 208
(Liverpoot) Field Hospital RAMC).

Dinners Old Oxford Circuit

The President of the Family Division attended a reunion dinner of former members of the Old Oxford Circuit held last night at the Middle Temple, by courtesy of the Treasurer and Masters of the Bench, to mark the 25th anniversary of the demise of the circuit. His Honour Alan King-Hamilton.

OC. Leader 1961-1964, presided, Mr Justice Popplewell also spoke. Mr Richard Wakerley, QC, im-mediate past Leader of the Midland and Oxford Circuit, and Mr James Hunt. QC, Leader of the Midland and Oxford Circuit, were

the guests. Past and present members of the Court of Appeal, past and present High Court Judges, past and present Circuit Judges and QC's. were present.

Cranfield University Lord Kings Norton, Chancellor of Cranfield University, was the host at a dinner held last night at Woburn Abbey to mark the university's 50 years as a seat of learning. Viscount Caldeone, Field Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill and Professor Frank Hartley. Vice-Chancellor, also spoke.

British Association for Sport and Law Mr Edward Grayson, President of the British Association for Sport

and Law. Mr Maurice Warkins,

Exeter, in honour of the Deputy Mayor of Exeter. Appointments

Mr Peter Moorhouse to be Chairman of the Police Complaints Authority. He has been a deputy chairman since April 1991. Mr Tom Bruce Jones to be a nonexecutive Forestry Commissioner, in succession to Mr Terence

DEATH OF MR WILLIAM **MORRIS**

THE death of Mr William Morris, which we regret to say, took place shortly after 11 o'clock on Saturday morning at Kelmscott House, Hammersmith, after a long illness. removes from the world a man whom we do not hesitate to call a great artist. A poet, and one of our half dozen best poets, even when Tennyson and Browning were alive: an artist whose influence is visible almost everywhere; a craftsman who devoted himself, in a commercial age, to the union of arts and crafts, it may be said of him, with little or no exaggeration, that he adorned all that he touched. And, if another famous epitaph may be allowed to suggest itself, we should say that. while his best work — a poem of his own, or a volume from the Kelmscott Press - is often present on our bookshelves, most of us find something in the nature of a monument to Mr Morris in the better taste of our domestic surroundings, It is seldom, indeed, that an Englishman is an artist of this type. True, Mr Morris was neither a painter not a sculptor. He studied painting for a time, but preferred to give his energies to the more practical arts with which his name has been so long associated, and to the poems some of which.

we do not doubt, will live long after him. No

ON THIS DAY

October 5, 1896 **进程前的**

The artistic glass, tiles, wallpaper and furnishings which William Morris (1834-96) produced, combined with his literary work. presented a dual existence to the public poems by Morris, the wallpaper wallpapers by Morris, the poet."

one who has witnessed the Arts and Crafts Exhibitions, which he helped to promote will deny that he possessed and effectively used a remarkable diversity of gifts. To these he added a strenuous and outspoken English nature, such as rarely combines with the

typical artistic temperament . . . We have referred to his poems as his best work, and might justify the epithet on the ground that they are oere perennius, while the concrete productions of his factory must needs perish in process of time, or be debased by the imitations of inferior art. But we do not know that Morris himself would have taken this

view of the fruits of his life. One cannot read his poems without feeling that their easy music, not hammered out, but flowing free. must have been a source of pleasure to the writer, yet his sense of beauty and his energy perhaps found a still keener gratification in the material things produced by his hand and under his direction. Enlarging on whatever Mr Ruskin has said of the nobility of honest work, and utterly despising the notion that an artist should plan and design, but, save in the finest of fine art, not execute. Morris held not only that executive handicraft was within the province of an arrist, but that all crafts demanded artistic treatment. This principle he preached and practised with a good deal of enthusiasm, we wish we could add with an equal degree of success. It was of "us handicraftsmen" that he spoke to the Trades' Guilds: and it was as a "common fellow" that he addressed a gathering of Birmingham artists and workmen. His cardinal principle was "Art made by the people, and for the people, as a joy to the maker and the user." "I do not want art for a few any more than education for a few, or freedom for a few." "You," he said, "whose hands make those things that should be works of art, you must be all artists, and good artists too, before the public at large can take real interest in such things."...

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NATIUIRIE NOTIES

Major defends talks on EMU

Britain must stay in the single currency negotiations to prevent the rest of Europe fudging the terms of entry and creating a failed monetary union that would be a disaster for the country; John Major writes in The Times today.

NEWS

The Prime Minister offers a detailed defence of his "wait and see" approach so as to prevent next week's Tory conference descending into a battle over the issue Pages 1, 14, 20, 21

Prince sacks private secretary

■ Commander Richard Aylard, the Prince of Wales's private secretary, is to leave his post early next year. Although the parting was by mutual agreement, it was clear that he had effectively been dismissed.

Cocaine charge

President Clinton was accused of being a heavy cocaine user in the 1980s days before his first presidential debate...

Trial for Brady

Karren Brady, managing director of Birmingham City football club. was committed for trial on charges of advertising misleading prices for away match tickets Page 1 Gunman's 'licence'

lost his firearms certificate had lawful access to his weapons at a

gun club ... Fertility check The specialist who treated Mandy

A disturbed gun enthusiast who

Allwood, who lost all eight babies. wants new rules to control fertility treatment for women Page 5

Prescott rallies party

John Prescott put Labour on election footing with a declaration that "victory is within our grasp after 17 long years".....

Homes grow in value as gardens bloom

bedrooms and conservatories as desirable extras....

Insight into juries

The new Lord Chief Justice backs a change in the law to allow research into how juries reach their verdicts ...

Power of healing

Women priests, far from dividing the Church of England, have helped to foster a new spirit of Page 9 reconciliation ...

Sultan's homecomina

29 years ago ...

Leader's torment

Afghans are drawn to the site where former President Najibullah was left hanging Page 13

The Pope, 76, enters hospital to-

morrow for his sixth operation in his 18 years as pontiff; this time forPage II an appendectomy ...

■ House owners seeking to improve their property now tend to spend on the garden rather than fit a kitchen, the Halifax says. Those selling their homes also regard security features, fitted

Yemen, in a sharp break with earlier anti-royalist sentiment, has welcomed back Sultan Glalib al-Ouaiti, forced into exile by Britain

Surgery for Pope

Inquiry into Hamilton affair: Britain's flora; Middle East peace; Labour and pensions; UK structure; Duchess of

Major's maybe: Britain's interests may soon be best served by abandoning ambiguity. But a public refusal to join EMU, in order to win cheers at the seaside, would be wrong...... Page 21

Europe - a history: Norman Davies's testament will bring powerful ideas to all who .. Page 21

ETTES

OPINION

.. Page 21

COLUMNS

Large Pink (Currencis singularis)

Simon Jenkins: The "girl in pearls" has gone the way of the debutante Page 20 John Major: We cannot yet know how much economic

convergence will have been achieved. Or whether participants will have achieved flexibility to deal with structural unemployment Page 20 OBITUARIES

Betty Gathergood, curator of Dr Johnson's House; Zabine Slatin, rescuer of Jewish children; Lord Clydesmuir, former Governor of the Bank ... Page 23 of Scotland...

BUSINESS

Much fancied for sausage meat at the Bournemouth Show, but is proving a hardy swine and could save its bacon.

Norwich Union: Norwich Union has launched an investigation into allegations that financial advisers are encouraging carpetbaggers to make fraudulent backdated applications for new policies in order to take advantage of the flotation Page 25

Economy: The economic effects on Britain if it chose to leave the EU would be marginal.....

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 24.8 points to close at 4024.8. Sterling fell to 87.1 after a fall from \$1.5659 to \$1.5633 and to DM2.3914...

Rugby league: The Super shortly.....

sedski, are in the semis of tournaments in Lyons and Page 25 Singapore...

> Porsches very comfortably ... Page 28

SPORT

League won its court appeal against the Australian Rugby League. Anglo-Australian Cricket: Shahid Afridi, a Pakistan teenager, scored a century from 37 balls Page 48 Tennis: the top two Britons, Tim Henman and Greg Ru-

CAR 96 Pure Jaguar: The XKS beats

playing relations will resume

of her hit ArtPage 17 People's priorities: Lord Gowrie's protests about shrinking subsidies are years behind.......Page 17 Play time: Writer Martin McDonagh, at 26, has two plays opening in the West End. So a little arrogance can be forgiven ... Page 19

ARTS

Work of Art: French play-

wright Yasmina Reza is

nervous about the opening

Gene's genius: Gene Wilder is doing his best to transform Neil Simon's fortunes in Laughter on the 23rd Floor Page 19

SECTIONS

Soldier of fortune: The rise and rise of Aleksand ---- Page 10 I ebed ...

WEEKEND

Perfect party: With The Times cook Pages 12



Travel: A new series on The resorts Pages 20 21 Wild Britain: Plant magic

10 15

Win: a multimedia computerPage 3 Meet: Jay Kay, Jamim. quai's singer...........Page 6



the life of Paul Gascoig Monday, Channel 4, 9pm Tonight: Crossing the Floor, BBC2, 9.30pm

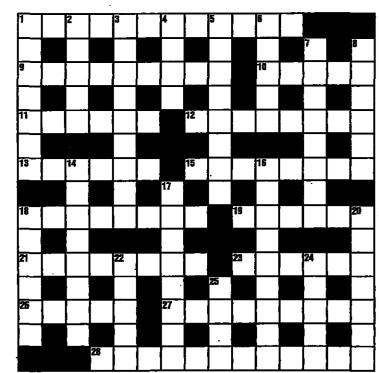
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,291

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour A limited edition, 1710 virtual single malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries

should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO

Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The winners and solution will

be published next Saturday.



- I From chap in shop I'm reordering
- 9 Bother, could it be? Not for the best solvers! (9).
- 10 The present US president (5). 11 Lack of notice about illness? Thats
- 12 Showing discomfort, having hard cut in hand (8).
- 13 Don't suffer in silence, being cowardly (6). 15 Training of fliers to rebuild RAF-
- only about 100 needed (8). 18 Mournful sounding proposal put by bloke (8).
- 19 A foreign recommendation to break off current connection (6).
- 21 A rare breed with certain points, this terrier (8). 23 Played thus with short iron.
- getting into centre of target area? (6).
- 26 Menacing looks as officer abandons flag (5). 27 Finish needlework that's tightly
- bound together (5-4). 28 Is it usual breaking the law in Australia, say? (12).



- Type that's brash, round East End of London brought up (7).
 Dealing with a fight (5).
- Encourage a desire to get moving
- Source of notes originating on back of envelope (4).
- Not the main route team travelled, we hear (4-4). Piece of metal collected when parts
- are exchanged (5). Race of people (8).
- 8 Highly dramatic period before end of century (6).

 14 Don't take holiday abroad (5,3).
- 16 New accent required in case it's a foreign language (9).
- Communication device installed in wing for winter coming (8).
- 18 Costermonger displaying fruit lady takes no notice (6).
- 20 Travel with wife and share the expenses (2,5).
- 22 Is CD moved round for this musical entertainment? (5). 24 Like some editorial decisions,

followed by none (5). 25 An artist such as Constable (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,290

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

TIMESWEATHERCALE

East Midlands . W & S Yorks & Dales
N E England
Cumbria & Lake District
S W Scotland
W Central Scotland
Edin S File/Lothian & Borders
E Central Scotland
Grampian & E Highlands
N W Scotland
Cathness Orkney & Shetland
N Ireland
Weathercall is charged at 31

Weethercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA HOADWATCH For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code London & SE traffic, re



HIGH TIDES

7:11 7:55 12:09 5:05 6:17 11:09 5:05 11:37 5:58 5:20 4:38 5:46 7:09 9:06 4:54 5 54 38 11:39 47

FORECAST.

☐ General: England and Wales will have a sunny start but showers will develop, chiefly over eastern England. Any showers in the west will soon die out, while those in the east become lighter. Scotland and Northern Ireland mainly dry and suriny at first, apart from showers over north and east Scotland. These will

die out as patchy rain spreads across northernmost parts of Scotland. More rain is expected later in northwestern

Breezy and rather cold everywhere. ☐ London, SE, Cent S, SW, NW, Cent N England, Midlands, Channel Isles, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Wates, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, Scotland, Glasgow, Cert Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Sunny spells, scattered mainly light showers, the showers dying out during the day. Wind strong northwesterly, becoming fresh later. Rather cold. Max 12C to 15C (54F to 505)

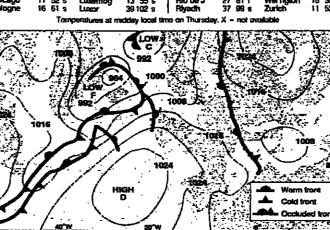
☐ NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Sunny intervals and showers, dying out later in day. Wind strong northwesterly, moderating later. Rather cold. Max 11C

turning southwe Max 10C (50F). NW Scotland: Sunny intervals, then

☐ E Anglia, E England: Sunny intervals AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

16 15 13 16 15 13 15 15

8.2 005 41 036 8.0 004 ABROAD



Changes to the chart above from noon; high D will extend a ridge across southern Britain

and showers, the showers heavy side at first but becoming lighter. Wind strong northwesterly, becoming fresh later. Rather cold. Max 12C to 14C (54F to

to 13C (52F to 55F). ☐ NE Scotland, Orlowy, Shetland, Showers, dying out Light rain for a lime in the afternoon. Wind northwesterly

becoming cloudy with patchy rain. More persistent rain during evening. Wind west turning southwest, fresh becoming strong. Max 12C (54F).

Outlook: Dry at first in south. Rain in

Sleet and sunny showers MCOERATE.

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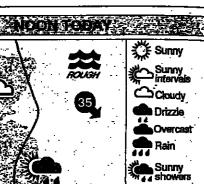
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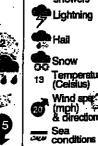


Boy wonders: 36 pages of autumn style Page 47

and medicine..... Page 28



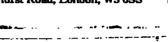




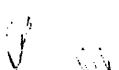
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GARDENING



R 5 199

TIONS

On Apple Day, some healthy advice for growers Page 4

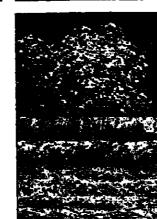
PLUS: Your questions answered, page 5



The best in skiing this winter, starting with France Page 20

PLUS: Two nights in Paris from £39, page 11

BOOKS



Save £5 on the new definitive guide to our wild flora Page 7

PLUS: Part 2 of Flora Britannica, page 28

PROPERTY



Special deals are tempting first-time buyers Page 11

PLUS: When a pub is home, page 12

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 5 1996

FRANCES BISSELL'S RECIPE FOR THE PERFECT DINNER PARTY



have friends who say they never give dinner parties any more. They "invite people for supper". But go to to their house for "supper" and it's a glass of bubbly pressed into your hand before you have time to get your coat off. When the time comes to eat, the dining table sparkles with china and analysis. with china and crystal. The candles are lit.
the white wine is brought out, properly chilled, and something red and glorious is served with the main course, as well as something delicious with the pud, or puds.

Before that, there will be carefully chosen cheeses, and sometimes, even home-made bread. I call this a dinner party. Why all this

inverted snobbery about a name? We read much in the style pages about the demise of the dinner party; friends now meet for supper at one another's homes, eating informally at the kitchen table, dining off dishes quickly unpacked from M&S. Or they meet and go Dutch in the latest fashionable mega-restaurant. Perhaps this gives the game away. These anti-dinner party souls

HOW TO WIN THE TIMES COOK IN YOUR KITCHEN SEE PAGE 2

live in cities, where there is a "latest fashionable restaurant" to which they go. But not all metropolitans are anti-dinner party, and not all kitchen suppers are dressed-up

convenience food. A few weeks ago, staying overnight with friends, we were told that Saturday evening was to be a kitchen supper for the four of us, Saturday lunch having been for 16 people. The food was simple and delicious and yes, convenient, in its way -figs and prosciutto, a creamy fish pie and leftover summer pudding. But the vintage Bollinger was followed by 1986 Bâtard-Montrachet from two different single

Why do we actually give dinner parties? Is

it to network? To impress people? To make matches? I'm afraid I have never progressed beyond the stage of simply wanting to invite friends in for good food and wine. A couple we had not known for very long were, I know, disappointed to come for dinner with us and find no one to network with.

For whatever reason, and no matter how often it is labelled "unfashionable", the dinner party is alive and often elaborate.

Continued on page 2

GARDENING.....4

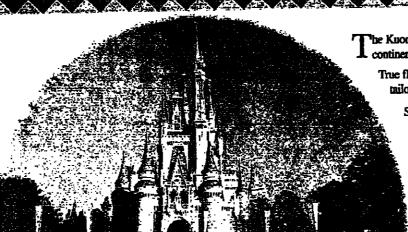
SHOPPING 7 PROPERTY 11,12 PETS

.14,15 GOING OUT...16,17 TRAVEL.......... 19-25 GAMES....

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'I hope the invitation says come hungry, come thirsty and come in a taxi'

Continued from page I In London, The Brides Book experts on such matters, confirm that all the accountements of the dinner party are still sought-after wedding pres-ents, although grandeur and opulence has given way to simplicity and clean lines, and more informal dinnerware is being sold. By all accounts, the New York dinner party scene is thriving and quite often to be found entertaining members of new Labour.

hole shops in to "l'art de rece-voir" and the glossies are full of glamorous recipes for entertaining. And. judging by the letters I receive, readers of The Times, everywhere are staunch dinnerparty people. Special occa-sions are planned weeks, if not months, in advance, recipes are tested and menus are carefully planned. Sometimes I get frantic letters saying: "A year or two ago, you gave a marvellous recipe for such and such, which we all liked very much. I want to serve it next week for a dinner party, but I can't find the recipe. Help!"

At home, I have been cooking for friends for many years, more than 20 of them documented in a series of food diaries. At the end of each year, I buy a French house-hold agenda and use it to make a note of what I cook every day, what is in season. how much it costs, and an occasional shopping list. I started doing this long before I became a food writer, and it has proved useful. I do like to check that I am not planning to give friends the same main course they ate the last time, and Tom, my husband, always wants to know what

Food and wine, although an essential element, are not the only consideration. There is, for want of a better word, etiquette. Life is too short, and we are all too busy to spend three or four hours in uncongenial company. In the days of casual telephone invitations, pitfalls await the unwary. "Are you free on Friday evening?"
You say yes, and then you hear, "and we thought we would invite X and Y". You can't stand X and Y, but it is too late to back out. A better approach might be: "We are inviting X and Y'for dinner next Friday, and we wondered if you would be free to come, too?" There is now enough time for an inventive and facesaving excuse. I cannot commend this ploy too highly. A friend told me that once she was left sitting at a dinner in the realisation that her husband was never going to return from a visit to the lavatory. It was summer, and the sight of the open front door and the garden gate, a much more attractive prospect than returning to sit beside a particularly difficult guest.



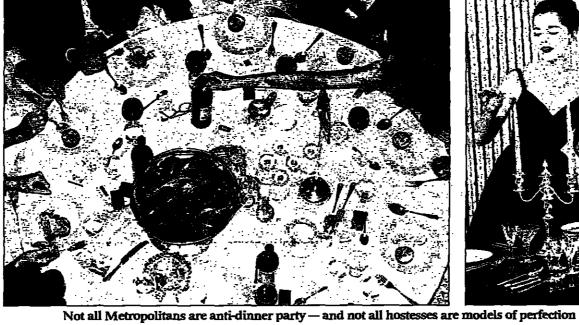
The most daunting dinner guests in the world? Frances Bissell once cooked for chef Anton Mosimann (standing, far left), his wife Kathrin and their guests, who included Nico Ladenis, chef patron (with dish, far right)

My husband says that two expatriates should never be dinner party. If they wanted to talk to their countrymen, they would return home. Expats are not tourists; they secretly

want to belong.

Is there anything you can't eat or drink, is a question ! always ask if somebody is coming to dinner for the first time. When people answer on behalf of others, they do not. however, always get it right. Who would have thought melon would be a problem. Once I served melon sorbet to some friends, and after smelling it, one of our guests turned quite funny and had to leave the room. His companion had told me earlier in the day that he could eat anything. On another occasion, a food writer friend was bringing a wellknown television cook from America for dinner. Do ask her if there is anything she can't eat, I said. "Oh, don't worry darling: she's a foodie, and can eat anything," he replied. But one look at her face, when I served a heaped otherwise. Smoked salmon came to the rescue though. I wish I could claim always to be so organised.

It is as well to stay relaxed



and flexible so that when d'Or in Paris. I thought I would get a little mise-en-place disaster occurs, you are not so tightly wound up that you snap. I will never forget invitout of the way, and, having made the sauce, I decided to ing two serious and important evening. As a main course, I had planned roasted veal kidneys with a Roquefort sauce, an idea developed from a dish that I once ate at Le Cochon

half roast the kidneys, and them off at the last minute, but I cooked them beyond that point of perfect pinkness. What to do? It was after 6:30 already. I didn't have a freezer, from which to pull out a delectable little standby, and the late-night corner shop had only miserable looking steaks and chops. Tom, who is always looking for a new pasta creation. suggested I make some pasta, chop the kidney, and with the addition of herbs and spice, and a little ricotta, make tortelloni, which I did, and served it with the Roquefort sauce. I do not recommend, however, planning to make fresh pasta an hour before your guests appear, but it does provide a good solution. Some years ago, at a charity dinner for the Academie

Culinaire, I offered, as a prize the raffle, to cook dinner for the highest bidder and five

t was both gratifying. and somewhat overwhelming at the end of the bidding, to realise that I would be cooking dinner for the chef Anton Mosimann and his wife Kathrin and their guests, including, I later discovered, the chef patron Nico Ladenis and his wife, Dinah-Jane. I had decided on oriental salmon wontons for appeti-sers, followed by fennel and champagne risotto, and then pot-roast quail, stuffed with black and white pudding as the main course, farmhouse cheeses, and to finish, a version of summer pudding, using tropical fruit, which I thought a very clever idea. Ha! There is such a thing as trying

The dinner was for Sunday night, and on Sunday mornindividual puddings I had made the night before. Bread slices had been replaced with sponge, tart summer berries were replaced with diced mango, guava, and papaya with passion fruit juice. It tasted dull and bland, and it was falling to pieces, since tropical fruit has no pectin to hold together. Still with no freezer to fall back on, I had to look to the local shops for the solution. New season's Spanish strawberries, yoghurt, ricotta and cream, and just enough time enabled me to make coeurs à

la crème, macerate some strawberries, and turn some into a coulis. That experience taught me some recipes are so perfect that they cannot be improved upon, and dinner parties do not have to be complicated to be successful.

Since then, I have cooked often for chefs, and I have to say that they are among my favourite guests, as they are the most appreciative. For them, I usually cook the simplest, homeliest food; at this time of year, for instance, perhaps a game cobbler, or a shoulder of lamb, slowly braised on a bed of sliced onions and potatoes, in preference to floisettes d'agribay en robe de soir, as il were.

The cellar master in our house has reminded me to include wine etiquette in this article. Do you take a bottle when you are invited for dinner? If you know your hosts, then you will know the answer. If you do not know them, you risk upstaging the host with a better bottle, and worse, offending him, or her, by implying that they might master once got his comeuppance, when asked by a guest what he should bring. Oh, something dry and

white," was Tom's response. A

bag of white flour was what he got. On the other hand, a bottle from a fine cellar is more than welcome, especially when it is given to be put away for a rainy day.

What is the perfect number of guests? I am happy cooking for a foursome. Six is fine, too. but eight tends to break up into two parties. Five is my absolute ideal number.

People often ask me if Tom and I get invited back, meaning, I suppose, that some people might be reluctant to invite the scrutiny of a trop sional cook. I would like to say we do, but, as Tom says, when guests are into their second bottle of claret, they will say come to our place soon." He sometimes wonders, does "soon" mean next month, next year, or indeed the next century. But, when the invitation does arrive. I hope it says: "Come hungry, come thirsty, and come in a taxi."

Frances Bissell's recipes for

Cover picture by CORBIS-BETTMANN Colouring by LEE BANKS and DANIEL BAMBRIDGE

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Frances Bissell is the award-winning author of nine cookery books. You can see her in action on the first day of the International Festival of Wine and Food, sponsored by The Times and The Sunday Times, at Olympia 2 from October 24-27.

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Here are the three questions: I. Which country do you associate with lasagne verde?

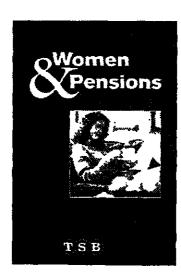
2. What ingredient is used to create the "is-

lands" in iles flottantes? 3. Which ground spice is produced from the outer casing that grows on nutmeg kernels?



Frances Bissell, The Times Cook, has

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his being the party conference season, it is time to fling a few bogey words around - socialism. poll tax, Clause 4. You know them as well as I do; they were all once embraced, but are now shoved on to the back burner.

the gas turned down, and allowed to become cold and indigestible. Can I hurl another couple of embarrassing bogies at you? They are foods which we once held dear and are now too ashamed to contemplate. They stare up at us from the butcher's slab with demonic eyes. They are beef and pork fat. Beef first. People are becoming coy about their beef habits. To boast of being a beef-eater these days is to risk the pitiful glance that the early muesli martyrs gave to those who remained faithful to the fry-up. There may well be nervous families huddling round a bit of rump at this very moment, curtains closed in case the neighbours spot the mustard jar, put two and two together

and start throwing stones. Beef-eating is bad enough, but what about pig far? Is there anyone left in this country who will stand up and declare

Why I've no beef about pork fat

themselves to be fond of a bit of bread and dripping? You might as well call for the stringing up of cats. Somehow, we have been persuaded it is lethal, clogs the arteries and gums up the works - which it may well do if taken to excess. But what has happened to a sense of moderation? Thrown out with the bathwater, and the

pork chops with a nice bit of fat on them. Of course, it is not many years since there existed a breed of pig, widely farmed in Dorset, which was called the "ice-cream pig". These pigs were bred to have plentiful back-fat, which was removed at slaughter and processed into ice-cream. Do you remember that glum warning which said, "this product contains non-dairy fat"? Did you know exactly how far removed from the dairy it was? I did not believe this when first told, but then a farmer said to me: "Why do you think Walls used to make becon and pork pies?" So, 25 years ago, you and I strolled along the prom clutching a cornet, licking at our processed pork fat and thinking we'd never had it so good.

Shunning all modern food fancies, and with the bravery of a man standing up at the Tory party conference calling for a tax on blue rinse, I offer a dish which fulfils all the requirements of the the modern, fatphobic eater while actually bringing together these two bogey ingredients, beef and pig fat. But I warn you, you will have to be brave, and trusting.

I have recently returned from the southwest of France and, pining somewhat for the robust food, my hand fell on Paula Wolfert's The Cooking of South-west France, in which she introduces

double-degreasing. Veteran HOME MADE

Paul Heiney

motorists will remember a technique for getting elder-ly cars over hills, called double-declutching. Well, this recipe for "Daube for Early September" will get you over the Fear-of-Fat hump that has been keeping you from some truly great dishes. It takes two slow days to cook, and some occasional delicate

Buy a 3lb silverside of beef. It is a dense, meaty cut

with little fat, and is cheap. If there is any fat to be seen on it, remove it. Now, cause your butcher to rock back on his heels by asking for 3lb of pork back-fat with rind. You may be the first person in the last ten years to make such a request. This is cheap, too; I paid 95p.

Clarissa Dickson Wright. Not

only are the ladies large but

they're utterly un-PC. They

advocate (in cut-glass Roedean

accents) limitless use of cream

(Paterson: "I like rich food.

None of this nonsense about

yoghurt instead of cream.").

they rubbish vegetarians, call

scallops "charming little fel-

lows" and produce dishes that

would feed a small army.
If you actually want to pick

up any solid culinary informa-

tion, you'll have to buy the. book of the series (published

by Ebury Press at £17.99).

which includes guidance on cooking a whole beast on a spit

("a surprisingly cheap way of

catering which always causes

excitement"), a recipe for

Roast Meat Loaf or "Hedge-

hog" ("a robust strongly fla-

voured monster . . . excellent

for picnics, parties, christen-

ings and wakes") and a mem-

Cut the silverside into half-inch slices, having rubbed the joint with plenty of black pepper, but not too much salt. Remove the rind from the pork back-fat (while marvelling that man once devised a way of turning this into something that could be eaten with a chocolate flake) and then cut the fat into chunks and, using a food processor, turn it into a thick paste while adding a chopped onion or shallor, parsley, garlic and pepper. It is not terribly attractive.

ine a heavy, cast-iron casserole with the pork rind — the skin side I must be inwards or it will stick and then put a layer of beef, a layer of the pork fat mixture, and another of beef, till

you have used all the ingredients. Take a bottle of strong red wine and boil it for 15 minutes till it has lost the alcohol (heartbreaking) and then add to

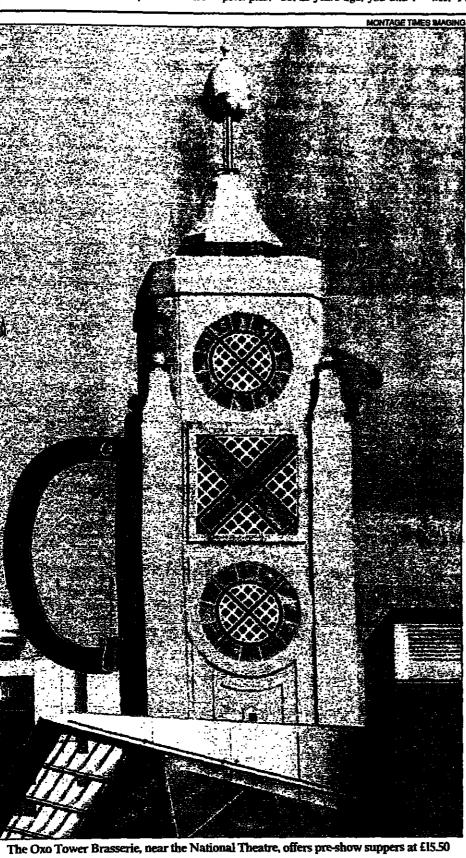
the casserole. Put on a tight-fitting lid,

remove it and allow to cool without the lid. The disgusting, flabby pork fat will have risen to the top of the dish, there to await removal by you, patiently, with a teaspoon.

Spare no effort to remove every trace. But, although this is the point at which we say goodbye to the pig fat, it will have left behind those subtle but vital flavours that only animal fat can give to food. Then back into the oven for another hour, another cooling, a further fat hunt. Now you can remove the cool, clean beef slices to a serving dish.

Strain the remaining juice to remove even more fat and rind, and then reduce the juice till you have a sauce. You can even skim this to ensure that - watch my lips — there is hardly any fat left in this dish. Yet I promise you will find more depth, subtlety and honest flavour in these slices of beef than you ever thought meat could contain.

If you try this in winter, save the fatty pork rind for the birds. And reserve a smug look of pity for those misguided souls who think fat-free must mean bland.



Coffee exotica

I HAVE BEEN bombarded with news about exotic coffees. Whittards, which has just launched a "Get Real" campaign encouraging us to drink proper coffee, has as its Coffee of the Month an Elephant Ears Coffee (so called, you will be relieved to hear, because of the shape of the beans), while Taylors of Harrogate has brought out a connoisseur range, including Tanzanian Kilimanjaro Mountain, Cuban Havana Gold, and a

South African arabica coffee. All this is good news for the thrillophiles among you who need their palate tickled by new and exciting products, but, as I learnt from two newcomers to the coffee scene, Jeremy Torz and Stephen Macatonia, this week, the origin of the beans is not as significant as the type of roast and the freshness of the coffee.

I tasted their basić Kenyan coffee at their microroastery (the caffeine equivalent of a microbrewery) in Essex, and it was a revelation: fresh, crisp and zesty. I can think of nothing better to start the day.

T&M have a theory that certain coffees suit different times of day, mood and even styles of cooking. Most of their business is in designing exclurestaurants: the River Café, for example, has a strong dark, typically Italian espres-so; Pied à Terre, a French restaurant, a much lighter, more elegant blend; while the new Oxo Tower restaurant has an attention-grabbing, highly aromatic style of coffee.

They will also supply to private customers by mail order (0181-500 2195). Beans are roasted and, if you wish, ground to order. If you want to appreciate the beans at their best you should use them within a fortnight, though you can keep them in the freezer for a little longer. If you want to experiment, T&M offer three different 227g (8oz) sampler packs of four different coffees for £12.50 to £15.25, plus £3.50 p&p. And, yes, they

do have some exotic ones. Spicy stuff Thrillophiles should try the Yemen Mocha Mattari which UNLESS you have a particuhas - how shall I put it - a

larly good local Indian restaufarmyardy quality not dissimilar to a good burgundy. rant you may do better getting your takeway off the super-market shelf. This week saw Plump role the launch of a range of regional Indian recipe dishes from Waitrose, which make chicken tikka masala look THOSE who feel oppressed by the size 10 figures of most television food presenters about as interesting as a Big should tune in next Wednes-Mac. There are enough differday to Two Fat Ladies, the first ent dishes to give you a real of a BBC2 six-part series featuring the outsize figures and personalities of cookery writers Jennifer Paterson and

DIGEST

Fiona Beckett

feel for the differences in ingredients and spicing between the regions. My favourites were the Chicken Achari, a creamy aromatic dish from Hyderabad, and the herby Green Chutney Chicken from the Punjab, a must for coriander (and mint) addicts. Considering that the recipes use authentic ingredients and spices such as jaggery, curry leaves, cardamom and awain

the chicken dishes are £2.79 for a one-portion pack, and you could put together a generous meal for two for under a tenner - cheaper, certainly, than my local Indian.

Show supper

PRE-THEATRE suppers used to be the stock-in-trade of the rather sad sort of restaurant which couldn't entice you through their doors at any other time, but these days some of the smartest restaurants have realised that this is a money-maker. Among the best deals in the West End are £14.50 for three courses at Quaglino's in Berry Street, £13 for two courses at L'Odeon in Regent Street, and two alternative menus at Mezzo in Wardour Street — the rather neat "£7 before 7" deal in the unstairs Mezzonine restaurant or E14 for three courses downstairs. Opera lovers can pick from Brown's in St Martin's Lane, up the road from the English National Opera (any two courses for £9.95) and Christopher's in Wellington Street (pre or post the Royal

Opera House) at £15 for three. South of the river, within striking distance of the National Theatre, there is the Oxo Tower Brasserie in Barge House Street (£15.50 for three courses) and the fashionable new fish restaurant Livebait in making a Shooter's Sandwich. markably reasonable. Most of The only problem with this

TRY ONE OF THE WORLD'S

FINEST BEDS AT DUXIANA.

proliferation is that you now need to take as much care selecting your dining venue as you do in picking your production. Mezzonine, for example, boasts a singularly spicy southeast Asian menu that would be an alarming precursor for a visit to the Mousetrap with your elderly aunt but ideal to get you in the mood for Miss Saigon.

Dished

THE PRIZE for the most pointless product of the week goes to Sorriso Italian-style Risotto alla Milanese, an "instant" risotto on sale at Harvey Nichols in London at £2.25 for a one to two-portion pack. Described as a "fast delicious meal" it actually takes 17 minutes of standing over the stove and stirring exactly what you do when making the real thing. You'd do better with Marks and Sparks Italian-style Mushroom Risotto at £1.49, which you can heat in the microwave in a two-and-a-half minutes.

> More food and drink in the Magazine

NATIONAL APPLE DAY: **CRUNCH TIME** FOR YOUR **GARDEN**

CHOCOLATE BOX



HAD ANYONE other than Antonio Carluccio suggested a dish of wild mushrooms polenta, game and chocolate I would have reached for my chocolate-coated smelling salts. However, I know that Carluccio, the proprietor of

Neal Street restaurant in central London. is incapable of doing anything tasteless to his beloved wild mushrooms.

The dish will be offered for one week to

celebrate London's first Chocolate Week, from October 19 to 28, organised by the Chocolate Society, which was inspired to stage this event by the Chocolate Conven-tion, which has been held for the past two years in Perugia in the Umbria region of Italy. Events will be scattered through the capital, and here is a tasty selection.

On October 23 beers will be tasted with Rococo's fine chocolates at the White Horse in Parsons Green, west London, from opm (tickets £10). The idea is to marry rich, malty, sweet heers to finely bitter chocolate.

Malt whisky and chocolate is being tasted on October 22 at Milroy's in Greek Street, central London.

At the Ritz, a special chocolate cake will be included in the hotel's tea (£19.50 a head, eat as much as you like from 2-6pm), and if it is as good as they hope it will become a signature cake for the hotel. A few doors away in Piccadilly at Fortnum and Mason, chocolates will be on sale made by the Italian chocolatiers Paul de Bindt and Andrea Slitti.

The Chocolate Society will be hosting evening tastings of the Krug of chocolate Vairhona Grand Cru, with Churchill's port, to celebrate the opening of their first shop at 36 Elizabeth Street, SWIW 9NZ.

JANE OWEN

For details of prices and ticket availability during London Chocolate Week 96 call 01423 322 230, Fortnum and Mason chocolates from the shop in Piccadilly or mail order on 071-734 3040. The White Horse, Parsons Green (advance bookings 071-734 3040. 736 2115). Neal Street Restaurant (0171-836 8368). The Ritz (0171-493 8181). Milroy's, Greek

Evening class in a meal with appeal

FAST FOOD

VEGETARIAN STUDENT SUPPER

Easy tomato, aubergine and spinach lasagne Baked apples with mincemeat and marzipan

The easiest student supper dishes are cooked in one container. It may be the only large cooking dish available and means minimal washing up, something we all appreciate. Use I litre of passata and 8 sliced tomatoes instead of the tinned tomatoes and 250g (90z) mozzarella and 200g (70z) feta cheese instead of the cheddar for a more expensive version.

MAKE LASAGNE Put 250g washed spinach in a pan and heat it gently for 3-5 minutes, until it has wilted and halved in volume, turning it over once or twice. Trum 4 medium-sized aubergines and cut each of them into four long slices. Cut 250g strong cheddar into small pieces. Pour Itbs oil over the bottom of a roasting tin. Layer up the ingredients as follows: half the aubergine, the wilted spinach, 6 sheets of lasagne, a 400g (14oz) tin tomatoes, 6 more sheets of lasagne, the rest of the aubergine, another 400g tin chopped tomatoes and the rest of the

cheese. Season with black pepper. Pre-heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas

MAKE APPLES Cut 6 cooking apples in half, crossways. Cut out the core with a knife (you can cut it all the way through, leaving a hole at the bottom of the apple) and put in an ovenproof dish or tin. Divide 250g (90z) marzipan into 12 pieces and put in the centre of each apple. Spoon 1/2tbs mincemeat on the top, so that the hole is filled. Cover the dish with tin foil.

Put both dishes into the oven for 40 minutes. If the oven is too small to do this,

cook the apples while you are eating the lasagne. Check that the top of the lasagne is not burning after 30 minutes. If so, cover with tin foil. MAKE SALAD AND DRESSING Chop up a large iceberg lettuce. Mix together itsp sugar, itsp vinegar and itsp grainy mustard, if you have it. Mix with 4ths oil. Use olive oil, if possible, though vegetable oil will do. Dress the salad at the last minute so the leaves do not go

SERVE LASAGNE ...with salad. SERVE APPLES

... with single cream, if you want.

HATTIE ELLIS

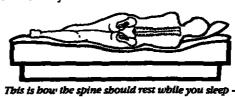
Shopping list

Fruit and vegetables 4 medium-sized aubergines 250g (90z) washed spinach 6 cooking apples l large iceberg lettuce

250g (9oz) strong cheddar 150ml/4 pt single cream (optional)

Store cupboard Iths vegetable oil 12 sheets lasagne 2 x 400g (14oz) tins chopped tomatoes 250g (9oz) marzipan 6ths mincemeat itsp sugar Itsp vinegar Itsp grainy mustard (optional)

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GARDENING

Gardener's update: Jane Owen on Apple Day, botany courses and the best finds for October

The apple of a nation's eye

rogdale Horticultur-al Trust in Kent holds the world's largest collection of apples treasure deserves to be better known. During their Apple Celebration on October 19-21. visitors will be able to tour the 150 acres of orchard and have "fruit doctors" diagnose failing apple trees (bring three apples and a leaf branch) or identify varieties. As a succulent incentive to readers of The Times, those who show this column will get 50p off the entrance fee per head, up to a maximum of four people.

Bare-rooted apple trees are for sale for about E10 each go for Ashmead's Kernal, which was raised by Dr Ashmead of Gloucester in 1700. It is a dessert Russet variety with a rich aromatic flavour, which ripens at the end of October to an attractive greeny-yellow, and should keep until February. Like most of Brogdale's apple trees it can be grafted on to different types of dwarf root stock, depending on the final size of tree.

Apple tasting of any of the 100 or so varieties on display during the celebration is free. and for a mere £1.50 you can buy a carrier bag of your favourite selection. Alternatively, you can sample the apples by checking into a suite at the Ritz (£525, plus VAT per suite per night, excluding breakfast) where guests' fruit bowls include Brogdale apples, plums and other seasonal fruit. Well, at least one national institution is giving a helping hand to its poor

the holder of the National Collection of Fruit, Brogdale has 500 varieties of pear, 350 of plum, 220 cherry and various currants, gooseberries, meddlers, quinces, cob nuts, strawberries and vines. Anything you buy, from the fruit trees to the unusual preserves (for instance Raspberry Curd E2, 120z/300g), helps to maintain this part of our heritage, which nearly closed in the 1980s for lack of funding

The Brogdale Horticultural Trust, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent MEI3 8XZ celebrates apples on October 19-21. 9.30am-5pm. £2.50, concessions £2, children £1.50.

Brogdale will arrange mail order for large orders of fruit or fruit trees. Contact Gerry Oughton at the above address. For an information sheet about events nationwide for Apple Day on October 21, write to Common Ground, 44 Earlham Street, London WC2H 9LA, preferably with a stamped, addressed envelope. For the Ritz bookings call 0171-493 8181.

INTERNATIONAL

FESTIVAL

OF FINE WINE

AND FOOD



An apple picker harvests one of the 2,300 different varieties of the fruit at Brogdale Horticultural Trust in Kent

IN SOME circles at this time of year the My Marrow's Bigger Than Yours syndrome is rife (I hear of a cabbage in Gloucestershire that measures 5½ ft). In others, Luciaand-Mapp-style My Plant's Rarer Than Yours one-upmanship rages. I'm never very convinced by either: vast vegetables tend to taste revolting and rare plants are sometimes rare for a good reason.

The National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) fairs usually have a range of unusual plants, often at better prices than garden centres.

Botany day

BRITAIN'S oldest botanic garden, at Oxford, is offering

autumn courses. They will be

Thousands of fine wines to try and buy from France, Spain, Italy,

Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Germany, Greece, The Czech

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Mouth-watering foods to sample and purchase, including Mediterranean specialities and oriental delicacies, Scottish delights and eastern exotics.

Awards Cheese Challenge, sponsored by Tesco.

The ever popular Sunday Times Wine Club Taste Tunnel.

Introduction to Wine Tasting Seminars, sponsored by Asda.

FREE cookery demonstrations, by the country's top chefs, such as

Bissell, in The Mark Wilkinson Celebrity Kitchen.

held in the garden, on the banks of the Isis beside Magdalen Bridge. The courses will be run by garden writers. broadcasters and tutors from Horti Praefectus, Walker, who is in charge of

the gardens. The next study day focuses on the winter garden and should include a mention of one of the garden's ferns. Polypodium vulgare, whose deep green fronds shimmer with frost on cold winter days.

More information can be obtained from Louise Allen. University of Oxford Botanic Garden, Rose Lane, Oxford OXI 4AX (01865-270000). a sandwich lunch. Evening lectures cost £6, with wine.

Sore knees

STUFF a hotwater bottle full of old tights and use it as a kneeler. This gem comes from Pippa Greenwood's Gardening Hints & Tips.

Green - or brown - fingers are held gently but firmly throughout as clear explanations backed up with even clearer photographs tell us how to do everything from pruning to planting. The text and ideas are great. Pity about the presentation. For the hardof-thinking there is a photograph of a pair of scissors.

Pippa Greenwood's Gardening Hints & Tips is published by Dorling Kindersley at £12.99.

Plant fair

TOMORROW the East Midlands Group of the NCCPG holds its first autumn plant fair at Selley Priory, Underwood, Nons from noon-4pm. Twenty-four nurseries will have stalls, although I doubt they will have anything as wild as a 5½ ft span cabbage.

To get to Selley Priory take the 127 off the M1 and turn that the stall of the M1 and turn the stall of the stall of the M1 and turn the stall of the M1 and turn the stall of the M1 and turn the stall of the M1 and turn the stall of the M1 and turn the stall of the M1 and turn the stall of the M1 and turn the stall of the M1 and turn the stall of the stall of the stall of the stall of the stall of the stall of the stall of the stall of the stall of

west on the A608, for half a mile. The £1.50 entrance fee includes a visit to the garden. For information contact John Gregory on 01636 525460.



In some circles marrows

LAWNS are a luxury for those with plenty of time and their own water source but, curiously, it is grass which is taking the place of lawn — specialist rasses which, once established, thrive with little or no water and maintenance and are best planted through a thick layer of gravel or shingle to cut down weeding.

For a failsafe system a layer of black polythene, or any other weed-suppressing mem-brane available at garden centres, should be laid first with the shingle on top, and the grasses planted through holes in the polythene. Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola' is a Japanese grass that makes a stunning display with bright yellow gently arching leaves giving colour until the

It has three drawbacks: it is deciduous: when it reaches



Hakonechloa: a specialist grass to replace lawn

some of the leaves bend slightly instead of arching, and nurseries have not been able to keep up with demand. So here is an alternative Acorus gramineus 'Ogon', a perennial which forms a clump of long leathery gold and green variegated leaves and will tolerate a wide range of conditions. It has many of the good qualities of grass without being a member of the family.

PW Plants, a nursery with a grasses, sells them for about E4 a pot. The address is PW Plants, Heath Road, Kenning-hall, Norfolk NR16 2DS (01953

FIND OF THE MONTH

i AM on the search for garden tech, which should be more widely used. Last Christmas my aunt gave me a Kirpi, which is marketed as "the ultimate weeding tool". Having hacked, scraped, sawn and grubbed my way around weeds stuck in the heavy clay of London and Oxfordshire can vouch for it.

The inner blade of the halfmoon shape is serrated for cutting through stubborn stems, and a fierce blade at the top of the outer edge hoes weeds effortlessly. The tip of the crescent digs out tap roots. Kirpis can be bought for £9.80, including postage, from Earthworks Trading, A Ashmole, 5 Sciennes, Edinburgh EH9 INH.

GARDEN ANSWERS



replies to readers' letters

My climbing Hy-drangea petiolaris is more than 20 years old and grows outwards to 3ft deep, encroaching over the path to the front door. Can prune it so that it will lie flatter but still produce flowers? — Mrs P. Smith. Loughborough, Leicester-

A Prune it back with a saw in March to the vertical stems attached to the wall. Feed it well. New shoots will clothe the structure over the year, and flowering should again the next year.

We have a beautiful weeping ash. In spring there are snowdrops and all colours of crocuses under the branches. What could we grow in ımmer, and when should we feed or mulch the tree? - Mrs J. Bassil, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

A So long as the tree is happy and healthy, there is no need to feed it. However, its roots are greedy and will be close to the surface, which will reduce competition from either weeds or plants you wish to grow there. If you want to grow much, you will need to mulch regularly with old compost, manure, and/or a general fertiliser. Drought will be your biggest problem, and this is why the most successful plants will be spring woodlanders which expect dry shade in summer. Why not take the season right through with bulbs. At the height of summer herbaceous colour in deep, rooty shade, is difficult to achieve. Would an urn of white busy lizzies suffice?

I have been told that the bracken I have in my garden (one frond) can cause cancer. Is this so? -J. Hopkins, Bexhill on Sea.

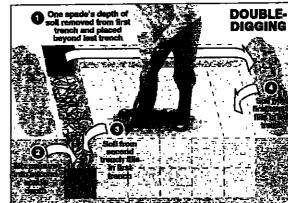
There is some evi-A there is dence that the spores of bracken are carcinogenic. and if bracken has appeared in your garden, then there must be more nearby. Remove your frond if it worries you, but what about the rest pumping out spores every summer? What is a reasonable risk?

I have moved recently I have move productive garden to a flat overlooking the sea with a 50ftlong walled balcony. I am shocked to find how little will survive the salt wind. Geraniums and begonias survive but evergreens get scorched. - Mrs J. Sharp. Bournemouth, Dorset.

Wild and salty it may be (what a recipe for retirement), but it will also be relatively mild so close to the sea. Use hebes, olearias, phormium, yucca, and cordyline. I would also make the most of succulents such as tubs full of the elephantine Agave ameri cana and baskets of trailing Lampranthus and Carpo brotus. Make the most o geraniums.

 Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend. The Times, Pennington St. London El 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying

Weekend tips

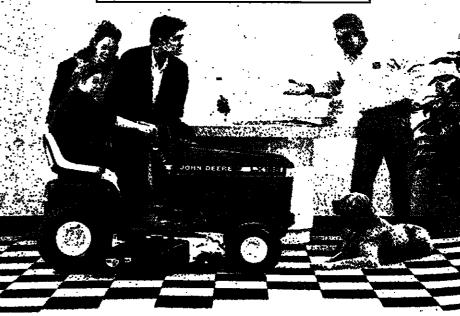


■ Begin digging and manuring vacant parts of the vegetable garden (see above) and apply lime where

Lift gladioli when they turn yellow, cut off stems, dry the corms, rub clean, label varieties and store. ■ Stop damping down greenhouses, but keep ventilation generous in dry, sunny weather.

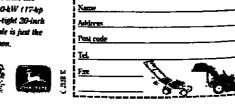
Continue potting spring bulbs for a staggered indoor display. Dry off lilies and hippeastrums in their pots.





e dealer has more in-store for you. From lawn tractors to walkers, there is a product to make your job easier. The LX 188 Lawn or is a good example. This regged-built hydrostatic model with twols is as easy as driving a car. It features a quiet 10-kW 117-km

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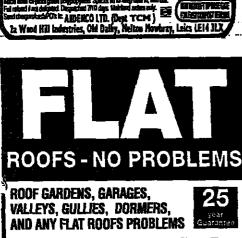


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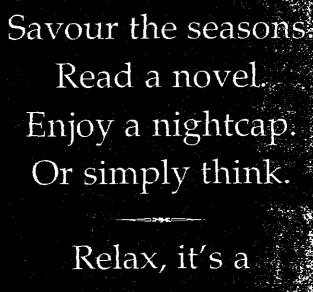


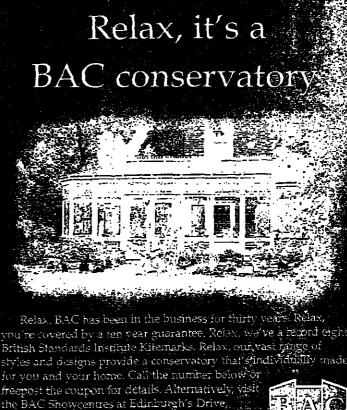


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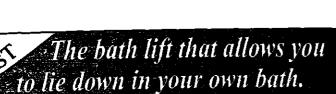


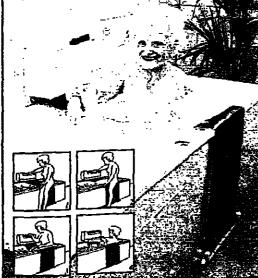


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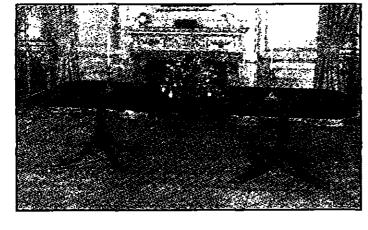
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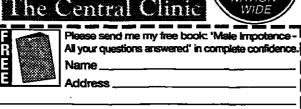
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مكان الرصل

Doug Sager explains how snowboarders can achieve the coolest looks on the slopes - even as beginners



than ever. snowboard manufacturers. Technical innovations are proliferating like retro-viruses. haven't yet been proven in practice. In the choice of gear below, I've tried to pick the best hardware for beginners and the highest performance rides for both freestylers and

freecarvers. Adult learners who buy from the list below can rest assured that when their kids laugh at them on slopes it won't be because of what they're riding.

BOARDS

Want to go for the long board for sticking those big drops. but don't want to lose spin characteristics with a monster , heavy blade? Burton's Supermodels (£436-£466)* are made of new ultra-lightweight materials for one of the best all around rides anywhere on the mountain. If you can't get enough of the halfpipe. Burton's Customs (\$436) remain some of the best freestyle boards. Among the Burton Pro Board range (£450)*, the Jim Rippy 154 was most in demand last season, but the Teric Balance 156 is possibly even more impressive in its 'do everything" performance.

Ever crashed because your feet overhang the board? K2's Fat Bob (£390)* boards are made for Bigloot. The new

sters get full performance from Dynatec's Junior Binding (£70)*. As bindings become less constricting, boots are increasingly reinforced, a good example being the NorthWave Lamm (£190). which has an inner-boot like a ski-boot liner. Looks aside, Burton Freecarve (£225)* gives the ultimate in reinforcement for freecarving. They say it's comfortable to walk in, but it looks like a ski boot to me. Best-looking boot on the mar-ket has to be Flow's Swell Boot (£180)*. It has phenomenal heel retention, looks like a high-top basketball shoe, and

is built for cliffs and carving. CLOTHING ___

I like a company, which says what it means. And what I would most like to be wearing this winter is Chromaphobia, in black and white. The 55 Degree Jacket (£259)* and Mountain Pant (£189)* are worthy of their Canadian heritage. This is tough, technical clothing with an unbelievable two-year guarantee. It's impossible to go wrong with Quicksilver - who else would have come up with Levis Revenge (£189)*, waterproof, breathable snowpants de-

WHERE TO STOCK UP FOR THE SLOPES

signed to look like jeans. Quicksilver's Original Sin Jacket E259* is loaded with technical features and one of the best-looking garments.

Women will want to check out Kurvz, American gear designed by women snow-boarders and the Prom line. from Swag. Swag's Ladies Luna Jacket (£109) is full featured, but very reasonable in price. Kurvz's Dianna Tech Jacket (£196)* is as functionspecific as the name suggests. and with the Dianna Tech Bib Pant (£196)*, featuring a "rear bathroom zipper for quick use", really makes a goanywhere outfit.

ACCESSORIES Snowboarders who feel the cold should consider the Thaw

Snowboard Longjohn (£29)*. Aside from the cool colours -bulldozer, demon and gun dog - the knees are padded with extra material. Look at any snowhoarder's gloves and you'll see why they call us shredders". Columbia's basic snowboard glove (£40)* has reinforced fingers and a waterproof, breathable shell, a lot of glove for the money. Bur-ton's Universe Glove (£60)* is

Snowboarders do suffer from loose screws. To keep board and bindings on the same plane, carry Totem's stash boxes of Torx countersunk and cylinderhead screws (£6 each). Don't forget the Totem Claw (£20)*, a chrome vanadium retractable knife plus spanner, and the Totem Dead Head multi-function screwdriver (£18)*.

more expensive, the palm area

is reinforced.

NEW AND NEEDED

The MountainBoard: Snow

boarders love living on the edge. Now you can indulge Gforce addiction any time anywhere. The MountainBoard looks like being the biggest thing since hula hoops. It's a snowboard shape laid out on a Jongitudinal axle with twin rubber spring-mounted wheels fore and aft. "Another way to kill yourself," says dad, so you know it's cool. It comes in four lengths, adapts to hard or soft bindings and can be customised with harder springs and four types of tyres.

It goes anywhere overland, down mountain pastures or the motorway, and it carves.

The Fishpaw: Great idea. On those days when the snow is heavy and wet, and spraying into your face, use the patented Swipeez rubber wiper built into the right thumb of Fishpaw's Yamada Pro snowboarder mitt (£75)* to clean your goggles without smears.

The snowboard stopper: "Where are the brakes?" most beginners yell the first time they start sliding on a snowboard. The Sno-Motion Snow Brakes fit the back of a board and at the press of a button lower two blades into the snow, for "a controlled descent" (£200).

The ultimate snowboard: It had to happen, a 40mph snowboard that does jumps and runs for an hour on one litre of petrol. Invented by snowboarders from Florida, and now available in the UK, the Powerboard has to be ridden to be believed. The 4.6 horsepower two-stroke engine is controlled by a hand-held throttle, but no brakes (£1500).

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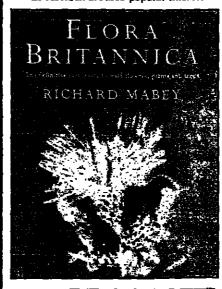
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ship as well as reportage, the culmination of Mabey's research and thinking over the last

His research aroused popular interest and



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grassroots involvement on an exceptional scale. People all over Britain, both rural and urban, have been encouraged to record and celebrate the cultural dimensions of their own flora and to send their memories, unecdotes, observations and regional knowledge to Flora Britannica.

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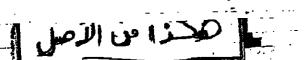
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fordable house prices and falling unemployment are encouraging first-time buyers to get a foothold on the home-ownership ladder.

With so many people stuck in the negative equity trap, many first-time buyers have waited up to six years, often staying with their parents, for signs that prices have stopped falling. But now, with evidence that the market is moving. they are house-hunting in earnest, taking advantage of special mortgage deals. These can slash monthly repayments for up to three years and provide "cashbacks" for furniture and legal fees.

The Halifax Building Society is even offering a guaran-tee to first-timers that protects against negative equity. If the home-owner decides to move between five and ten years after taking out the mortgage and is in negative equity, the Halifax will sell the property and fully repay the mortgage.

The new generation of firsttime buyers are older - most are in their late twenties - and many have a sizeable financial cushion behind them. Most will not buy unless they are confident about job security,

say building societies. They are right to be cautious. New home owners who lose their jobs and cannot pay their mortgage get no help from the state for the first nine months. However, only one in five borrowers takes out payment protection insurance offered by lenders, often because they cannot afford the extra cost, according to the Council

of Mortgage Lenders. Barry Naisbitt, an economist with the Abbey National, says: "In 1982 more than one in three home-buyers were making their first purchase before the age of 24. Today, the number of young buyers is much lower. Uncertainty about jobs has held younger eople back. Now that unemployment is falling and more

jobs are being created, they are more confident about buying their first home."

Few first-timers need 100 per cent mortgages, as was the case in the housing boom of the late 1980s, when many young buyers, hit by rising interest rates, found they had borrowed more than they. could afford to pay back. leading to a flood of repossessions. These days most have saved a deposit of between 5 and 15 per cent.

They can afford to be more selective, bypassing new star-ter-homes, hard-to-sell studios and one-bedroom flats in favour of larger properties suit-

able for raising a family.

According to the TSB, the cost of buying a home is at its most affordable level since 1978. Its affordability index shows that a typical house-buyer in 1990 would spend 571.30 forms 900 k 1100 for level. £71.30 from each £100 of takehome pay for the average home loan. Now buyers spend just £25.40 on their mortgage out of every £100 he or she takes home. Estate agents believe that the shortage of well-located houses on the market in many areas is leading to increased competition and rising prices.

Hardy, chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents, says: "Firsttime buyers are back, but their requirements have changed. They will often buy older houses in need of modernisation but are competing with those who have left the market and decided to move back in. That adds to the shortage of three-bedroom pre-1960 houses." According to the Council of Mortgage Lenders. the average price paid by firsttime buyers nationwide is £45,000, which buys a new two-bedroom terraced house in Plymouth or a three-bedroom semi in Greater Manchester, in Greater London, the average is around

£65,000, which provides a two-most young buyers. Hilary bedroom flat or a small tersuburbs, such as Catford.

With favoured parts of central London showing price rises of almost 10 per cent in the past six months, many first-time buyers are having to compromise on area and Notting Hill, South Kensing-ton, Fulham, Hampstead, Primrose Hill and Belsize Park are beyond the reach of

Wade of London estate agents Winkworth says: "Younger buyers want to be near smart shops and restaurants. Popular areas are Hackney and Stoke Newington, bordering Islington, North Kensington and Shepherd's Bush, neigh-bouring Notting Hill; Clerkenwell, close to Covent Garden, Soho and Islington."

CHERYL TAYLOR

damaged appliances and a smell of fumes are warning

Get your surveyor to check if the property has been rewired in the past 15 years. There should be circuit breakers at mains supply and enough electrical sockets to avoid trailing wires around.

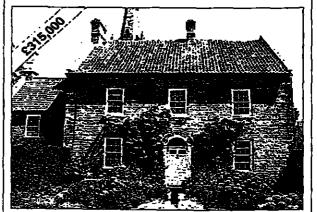
Ask to see fuel bills. A well-insulated property will cost less to heat, but it must have good ventilation to prevent condensation. Front doors leading directly into living rooms, large areas of north-facing singleglazed windows and conservatories that

cannot be separated from other rooms in the winter all put up heating bills. ■ Take account of daylight. Northfacing windows receive no direct sunlight. Shallow rooms are more likely to be well lit than deep narrow ones.

■ Check the garden. Steeply sloping gardens, and ponds, can be difficult to maintain and dangerous for children. Walls and fences with lockable gates prevent children and animals straying, but shade a small garden. North-facing gardens lack direct sunlight. Large trees close to the house can cause subsidence. Establish whether there is a longterm management structure in place, if you are buying a house or flat on a lease. Ideally, each owner will be given a share in the management company who will ultimately own the freehold and control service charges.

FOR SALE

OLD RECTORIES



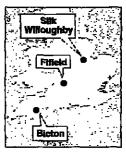
The Old Rectory, Silk Willoughby. Grade II listed Georgian forme rectory in formal walled gardens in the centre of the village. Seve bedrooms, two dressing rooms, two bathrooms, three reception rooms, study and kitchen/breakfast room, Range of outbuildings About £315,000 (Savills, 01522 543691)



OXFORDSHIRE

The Old Rectory, Fifield. Georgian former rectory in an acre of gardens with extensive views. Nine bedrooms, six bathrooms, shower-room, four reception rooms and domestic offices. Detached three-bedroom cottage, stone-built office/games room, garaging, outbuildings and heated swimming pool. About £695,000 (Jackson-Stops and Staff, 01993 822661).





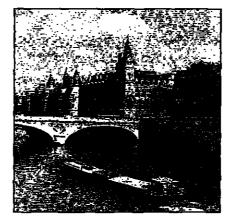
The Old Rectory, Bicton, Grade II listed Queen Anne. Former rectory in elevated position overlooking its own 21.5 acres of parkland. Six bedrooms, four bathrooms (one ensuite), three reception rooms, study, kitchen/breakfast room and cellars. Two-bedroomed staff cottage. Outbuildings, garaging, stabling About £700,000 (Knight Frank, 01392 423111).

CHERYL TAYLOR

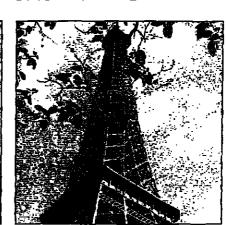
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3* Forest Hill (RO) 2 nights £39pp for car and 4 adults. The Forest Hill Bougival is situated to the west of Paris on the banks of the Seine. Ideal for self-drive breaks in Paris, the Forest Hill is also within driving distance of the world famous Chateau de Versailles whilst accessible to the centre of Paris by public transport (about £3 return). The hotel has a bar and restaurant which overlooks the river. All bedrooms have private shower/bathroom, telephone, satellite TV and minibar. Free underground parking is available at the hotel. One child (under 12) can stay free of charge when sharing with two full

3* Montmartre Inn (BB) 2 nights £59pp for car and 4 adults. This attractive, recently renovated hotel is located close to the Moulin Rouge and the heart of Montmartre but also within 15 minutes walk of the famous department stores such as Galeries Lafavette. All bedrooms have private shower/bath-

room, hair dryer, TV and mini-bar. One child (under 12) can room, nair oryer, Iv and min-oar. One child (under 12 can stay free of charge when sharing with two full paying adults. RO = room only; BB = bed and breakfast; PP = per person. If you prefer to stay in another location, or would like to upgrade to a higher category hotel, there is a range of alternative accommodation in and around Paris on offer. **EXTEND YOUR STAY**

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Try to see your chosen location in all its different guises. A neighbourhood may seem very different at night, at weekends or during school holidays. Visit it at different times of the day or week to get a better idea of what it's like to live there. Be wary of vacant land nearby. It might become the site for housing or an industrial development. Look at practicalities.

Most people will need to use public transport at some time. How far are you from the railway station, buses, shops, schools and health centres. Could you cope when the

car is in for repair? Find out if there are any potential

sources of noise or air pollution nearby. such as major roads, rubbish dumps, railway lines, airports, pubs, schoolplaygrounds, factories, dairies, quarries or goods yards.

Reduce conflict with neighbours. Opt

for a house with space out of sight to repair a car.

Find out about car parking. Parking problems can contribute to road accidents, car theft and disputes between neighbours. There may not be enough space for two-car households and visitor parking, especially in streets of terraced housing or busy main roads.

Consider the layout of the property. A kitchen at the front of the house means you can't keep an eye on children in the back garden while you are washing up.



be messy to take out the rubbish.

Open-planning can make small homes seem spacious, but may not suit families with teenagers who want privacy. Separate living and dining rooms mean different activities can go on at the same time, but rooms can be small and dark. Integral garages and hallways sometimes produce L-shaped rooms which are difficult to furnish. If the only way

■ Check that the property is safe. Avoid children falling out and burglars breaking in. Is there space in the kitchen to rest hot pans? The kitchen door should

out is through the living room, it could winding stairs and tapering treads. Closely spaced banisters will stop children slipping through. Windows should have locks to prevent small be well away from the cooker. Badly installed or poorty maintained boilers

can produce poisonous gas - stained or

TIPS: MAKE SURE YOU . . .

WARNINGS: MAKE SURE YOU DON'T . . . ■ Buy a house or a flat without seeking professional advice. Take advice about the structural condition of the property you hope to buy before handing over the money. A home-buyers' report, which includes a condition survey and a valuation fee, costs between £250 and £500. If you are buying an older house a full structural

fore you make an offer on a property.

Buy a property that will attract crime. Check that the position of porches, extensions, garages, balconies and drain pipes do not provide an easy climbing route for bur-

survey is advisable. Engage

an independent solicitor be-

glars. Houses backing onto open ground, railway embankments, woods and footpaths, all make it easier for thieves to break in. Many insurers insist on window locks and extra door locks. Buy a house or flat on a busy road if you have young

children and there is not a secure space for them to play.

Buy a property in need of modernisation if you don't want to spend your leisure time doing it up, and you can't afford to pay a builder to do the work. People tend to underestimate the work and cost involved in making an

shared entrances, corridors, lifts and rubbish chutes. Buy a house with a large garden if you don't want to spend weekends pulling up eds and mowing the lawn.

about noise. Noise is worse

in flat conversions, with poor

sound insulation. Noise from

common facilities and up-

stairs flats can be a nuisance.

Make sure bedrooms and

living rooms are away from

old house habitable. Buy a flat in an old building, if you are worried

Buy a flat without finding out about service charges and how they are assessed. Is there a sinking fund contri-bution towards future repair works and redecoration of common parts? If not you could be faced with high demands five years on.

PROPERTY

Big rooms make pubs great places to live, with or without customers, as increasing numbers of buyers are finding out

A free house becomes home

This time last year John de Noia was New York. Now he is the new host at the Wheatsheaf Inn at Titchfield in Hampshire. He bought the pub a few months ago with his wife Adrienne. "We wanted to work for ourselves, says Mr de Noia whose grandmother ran a bar in Manhattan for 30 years.

The couple have two large bedrooms for their children, a smaller bedroom for themselves and a sitting room of about 16ft by 14ft. There is also a long function room which they are not yet sure what to do with. It may end up being converted into two bedrooms for bed and breakfast.

Mr de Noia says: "We looked at ten pubs but the appeal of this one was its age (about 200 years), its character and the fact that the garden was the right size and can hold six tables. We also wanted a place we could put our stamp on and we felt that

this was it." The De Noias are just two of the thousands of people who have bought into the pub trade over the years and are realistic about the work involved. For those who are not, caution is advised. "It's a hellishly hard occupation and standards are rising all the time. But the first thing to consider is what it will be like being with your partner for 24 hours a day", says Colin Wellstead, national public house director of Christie & Co which currently has about a thousand pubs all over the country on its books. Some 200 of those are disposals by the pub company

Phoenix Inns.

Mr Wellstead places pubs into three price bands. Those at E50,000-E150,000 generally attract people who have never owned a pub before, he says, while those between £150,000-£300,000 tend to go to buyers who have already had experience of the licensed trade either as managers, tenants or



This pub was sold for under £90,000

owners. Most properties above £300,000 are sold to brewers and

dam Lansdown at the Edinburgh office of Robert Barry has seen suc-L cesses

disappointment amongst those who buy into the trade. He says: "People still have a dream about pubs and I think there's a fair proportion of them who make a fantastic success out of running one. Those who might struggle are the ones who buy too small in terms of turnover - less than £80,000 a year - and don't have the support of a second income. They're not quite busy enough to have staff to help them, they can be tied seven days a week and they're working as well as running the business."

A number of pubs go to people for residential use (see case study) and according to David Tooley. chief reporter of the The Licensee and Morning Advertiser, that can be a judicious way of buying a

In certain areas where property prices are high it's probably cheap-

er for people to get a pub and convert it than actually buying a house. The space is a big attraction as well, but be aware that some councils may object to a change of use because they see the pub as a community asset, he says. The Licensee and Morning Advertiser, one of the newspapers of the licensed trade, has a property section every Monday.

James Grimes at Fleurets in London says that a lot of work may have to be done to convince the planners that a change of use from pub to residential is desirable. Nevertheless, he says there is definitely a niche market developing here.

The buyers tend to have a pretty good idea about what to do with the buildings and they will end up with a home with lots of space, including a

basement, and usually plenty of character. The areas where this market is most noticeable are the up and coming parts of east London — Poplar, Clerkenwell and Hackney — where you can pick up pubs cheaper than in other areas of the capital. It's also happening in East Anglia where there seems to be an over supply of pubs, he says.

Fleurets has more than 400 pubs for sale in England and Wales ranging from £50,000 upwards. One place on the market, which Mr Grimes feels is a possible candidate for conversion is the thatched Duke's Head in Heath and Reach near Leighton Buzzard which comes with two bars, an inglenook fireplace, three double bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, garden and car park. The price is £140,000.

The Shergar at Peckham in south London is also on Fleurets' books. It is next to Victorian terraced houses and is priced at £128,000. The property has three bedrooms and a sitting room upstairs. Downstairs there is a bar, a games room and a kitchen. Sidney Phillips in Hereford is another company which specialises in the pub sales. Cur-



Julia Hember outside the Ship and Blue Ball pub in Shoreditch, east London, which she is converting into flats with her brothers

rently the firm has almost 1,000 pubs for sale, all over the country and most are in the £100,000-£250,000 price bracket. Eighty per cent are country pubs.

The Edinburgh office of Robert

Barry has 24 pubs for sale in Scotland and the north of England including a village pub near Ayr with a 250-seater function room and six bedrooms, all with showers or bathrooms. The asking price is

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

 Christie & Co 0171 227 0700: Fleurets 0171 636 8992. Sidney Phillips 01981 250333. ● Robert Barry & Co (Edinburgh office) 0131 225 2944.

The Licensee and Morning
Advertiser 01753 811911

JULIA HEMBER will be celebrating Christmas in her own pub. By then the builders should have finished converting the Ship and Blue Ball in Shoreditch. London, into three flats with a photographic studio in the bar and a graphic design studio in the

Pubs were at the top of her list when Miss Hember, a freelance photographer, started looking for new living and work space. With the help of her father, Paul, she went to Christie & Co, specialists in the field of pub sales. They looked at eight properties.

"For the amount of space you get they're very good value. If there's accommodation upstairs

ROOM AT THE INN

pubs are not that difficult to convert," she says. Her venture is a joint one with brothers Simon, Marcus and Miles.

The cost was just under the asking price of £90,000 and Paul Hember thinks another £50,000 will be needed for conversion. This for a four-storey property (plus basement) with 700sq ft of space on each floor, a stone's throw from the City and nestling within a creative community. The Hembers got planning permission for the conversion before buying. "It's a Victorian pub with

arched windows and tiles on the

outside. We're keeping those but removing fittings from the bar because they're not wonderful, Then we'll cut an area out of the

bar floor so you can see into the basement," says Miss Hember. The old bar has a 13ft high ceiling and plenty of light. Access to the basement will be by a Victorian cast iron spiral staircase bought from an architectural reclamation firm.

The three flats will each have two bedrooms, a sitting room, kitchen and bathroom. They will be reached by a different entrance from the studios. Two of the flats will be rented out. "I think this is a pretty good investment," Miss



A charming Victorian house overlooking the communal square gardens. 5 beds, 2 baths 2 receptions, kit/family rm, utility rm, 2 clkrms, west facing terrace, 15.4m (50ft) garden. JOHN WILCOX & CO: 0171-602 2352 JOHN D WOOD & CO: 0171-727 0705

BERKSHIRE Near Newbury imposing wing of Victorian country renovated and set in over 0.2 ha (0.5 acre). beds, 2 baths, recep iall, 4 receps, 2 garages further land of 0.2 ha JSA: Allen & Harris 01635 550621 Price Guide: £250,000 NEWBURY: 01635 523225



OXFORDSHIRE

Asthall Leigh,

gardens, paddocks & abling, a chalet-style

utility, ground fir nexe of bed 5/sitting

Price Guide: £295,000

OXFORD:

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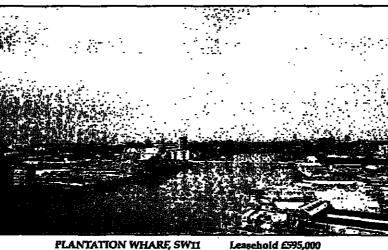
illage. 4/5 bed



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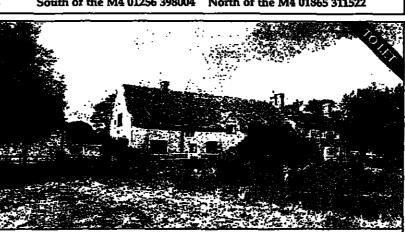


tic views of London and the River, a to 2 baths, 2 receptions, kitchen, conservatory, roof terrace, lift, parking, security office. WANDSWORTH: 0181-871 3033

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utility, long river frontage with fishing rights. About 1.2 ha (3 acres) OXFORD LETTINGS: 01865 311522



CRANLEY GARDENS, SW7 Lease to 2055 £695,000 ling garden maisonette renovated to a high standard, at the rear of a period ling, 3 beds, 2 baths, shower, clk, 2 receps, conserv, kit, caretaker, private gdn, comm gdns RUSSELL SIMPSON: 0171-225 0277 JOHN D WOOD & CO: 0171-352 1484

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Near Tetbury village, an appealing house with a delight annexe and pro 2 receps, kit, off-road parking, garage, garden. Annexe with 1/2 beds, kit/bed 2, Price Guide: £200,000 CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244



WILTSHIRE The Longleat Estate

stone cottage in an unspoilt elevated to the west, 3 beds. ath, 3 reception kitchen, about (J.) ha (0.25 acre).

Price Guide: £47,500 for a new 14 year lea WINCHESTER:

01962 863131

PETS

Cuts that can kill

hittle blood goes a long way. Like milk. Drop a bottleful and it looks as if a cow has burst. The red stuffs worse and spreads further. Ten to 12 per cort shelp. ther. Ten to 12 per cent of body weight — animals or humans — is blood. A healthy, 12-stone man can spare a pint, or even two, for the Blood Transfusion Service without ill-effects. He has about 15 pints altogether.

A medium-sized dog — 30lb — has nearly three pints of blood and a loz canary less than a teaspoonful. When Fido cuts his pad, a few ounces of blood can make a terrible mess on the rug but there's no danger of bleeding to death. But if a canary breaks a nail and sheds 50 drops of blood. that's life-threatening. Whenever blood is shed it's

useful to know how much. Enough to be critical — or not. Every vet has met a lively and cheerful, bloodstained white miniature poodle with a cut pad and an insistence that he's lost at least two pints of blood. Convincing the distressed owner that only an ounce of blood has been shed and losing even one pint would result in the dog bleeding to death can take longer than bandaging the invalid's foot. And over-assessment of blood loss is not confined to doting pet keepers. I was once called by the police to a dog with his throat cut". On arrival, a

bedraggled white terrier was sitting in the shade shaking his head. He had been in a fight and had been bitten on the tip of his ear, which was bleeding. Every time he shook his head, a thin red line of blood splashed the white hair

Blood clots, and so most bleeding, is self-limiting but any First Aid to reduce blood loss — and keep the car and carpets clean — is helpful. Bandaging deals with most cut legs, feet, ears and tails. Always include the foot. A tight bandage halfway up the leg can cut off the blood supply to the foot and gangrene could develop in less than 24 hours. Including the foot evens out ne pressure.

For the same reason tourniquets should be reserved for severe haemorrhage - when the blood is pumping out and then for only a few minutes at a time. If a tourniquet is necessary, a trip to

the vet is urgent.
If a small or medium-sized dog is put on a table or slippery draining board while he's being bandaged, life is much easier. The dog stays still - he can't get a grip. The first-aider is much more effitient, working in a natural position, rather than crawling around the floor.

JAMES ALLCOCK



PET NEWS

Charity says lend

me your ears

IT'S A never-ending search finding suitable dogs for training as Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and the charity has asked Per News to help. Heather Chute, fundaiser, says: asked Pet News to help. Heather Chute, fundraiser, says:
"Hearing dogs are not specially bred but selected from rescue organisations or given by breeders and pet owners.
"All kinds of dog (up to three years old) are suitable for assessment, except working collies and large guard-dog breeds. Most are small or medium-size mongrels." If you can help contact Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. London Road. Lewknor, Oxfordshire OX9 5RY (01844 353898).

Cat lovers' hairy problem

BECOMING the owner of a Persian cat is not something to rush into. A new book on the breed warns: "Persians can be quite demanding. If you are not prepared to spend a good deal of time grooming, then a Persian is not the pet for you, nor are they ideal for people intolerant of cat hairs." A section on bathing recommends getting your Persian used to having a bath as a kitten and advises that, with adult cars, two people should tackle the task while talking gently to the reductant bather. Persian Cats, by Marianne Mays, is published by Kingdom Books at £10.95 (01705 268122).

The softly softly approach

IS YOUR per frightened of loud noises? A £15 therapy tape has thunder, gunfire and even noisy lawn mowers on it. The idea is to start playing it softly at first, fussing your pet at the same time. Over a period, increase the sound gradually. The tape is available from The Company of Animals, PO Box 23, Chertsey, Surrey (01932 566696).

Fur goodness sake . . .

WE CHALLENGED readers to produce a better pet joke than the ones in *The Awfully Good Cat Joke Book* and had to suffer a postbag which included this offering from D.J. Curtis of Woolsthorpe by Belvoir, Grantham, Lincolnshire: "Did you hear that the cat food factory has gone bust?" "Yes, they've called in the retrievers." The Awfully Good Cat Joke Book, by David Jacobs & Trevor Dunton, is published by Metro Publishing at £4.99 (0171-734 6766).

JACK CROSSLEY

The art of getting a streetwise city dog to adapt to the new pleasures of the countryside



Beau the labrador and Saffie the Jack Russell love rolling in silage and badger droppings. Yet the countryside is full of traps for dogs and vigilance is the only solution

The hazardous call of the wild

eauregard, our labrador, was never very keen on London. Large dogs do not fit neatly into the urban environment, even in the largest cities. and when we swapped his twice a day romp in the dog pound of South Park for the wide open spaces of Wiltshire, Beau and his chum Saffie, our Jack Russell bitch, found themselves in Hound Heaven - at least for a while. Then we discovered that the country, like the town, sets certain rules

for dogs.

The first thing to realise is that, with the possible exception of working dogs such as sheep dogs, gun dogs and foxhounds, does are not really welcome in the countryside. They can upset sheep and me buras, trample crops and attract the unwelcome attention of cattle. This last can be alarming if you are out with your dog and find yourself on the receiving of a stampede. Even sticking to well-marked footpaths is no guarantee of a problem-free walk, unless you are strong enough to heave 100lb of wriggling labrador over a succession of stiles.

The first rule for any newcomer or visitor to the countryside is to keep dogs on a lead until all the hazards have been assessed and allowed for. Citybred dogs go back to their primeval roots in the countryside and the dog that trots obediently around the Serpentine in London can turn into a different animal on Salisbury Plain. Retrievers start retrieving and present you with the corpses of long dead rats. German shepherds start rounding up sheep, and the sheep do not like it. The call of the wild is powerful, even for well-trained pets.

We have got used to second guessing Beau and Saffie, but every walk is still an exercise in assessing the potential problems that lie along the way. Beauregard, in spite of regular rebuils, remains convinced that the whole world is his friend and still races off to investigate new sights and smells - especially smells and returns in his own good time, sometimes pursued by an outraged landowner.

Walks along the Kennet and Avon Canal, chosen for excursions as a farmer-free zone, have had to be curtailed after several fishermen lost all their gentles (wriggling worms), which provided Beau with a

tasty snack, or were almost bounced into the canal by his high-speed arrival. Fishermen are not noted for their sense of humour and we will not be back along the canal until the fishing season is over. Beau is, I admit, remarkably bouncy.

Apart from the risk of upsetting the locals, the countryside is not without its dangers. Many farms and farmyards are a tangle of rusting wire and derelict machinery, where poison left for vermin is equally dangerous for dogs, but one of the main hazards are swamps of rotting straw or silage pits. Beau adores slurry pits. One sniff of rotting silage and he plunges in at high speed, scattering silage in all directions, before

enjoying a satisfying roll. inis is dad endi large labrador but is down-right hazardous for a small Jack Russell. Saffie who, like all Jack Russells, tends to be feisty and has to do anything Beau does, is usually hot on his tail in the run up to a silage pit. Unfortunately, silage that Beau can wade through submerges Saffie completely, and she has to be hauled out and marched to the nearest tap for a good hosing down, or carried home at arms length and scrubbed clean in the sink. Saffie is currently being scrubbed clean two or three times a week, and she does not

Then there is the little matter of ghastly smells, brought home by the pets after a long, luxurious roll in fox or badger droppings. Unpleas-ant as they are to humans, especially when translated onto the carpet, our dogs love to roll in fox or badger do and come bounding up afterwards. grinning from ear to ear. I have been told that this is a relic of their hunting instinct, a way of disguising their own scent from prey, but since neither Beau nor Saffie has ever hunted anything other than Pedigree Chum, I find this a pretty thin excuse.

> PUFF LINES TO GO HERE AND HERE -AND HERE Page 5

"servants". The dunlins, like many other waders, are seen at their most dramatic when they take flight. They go up in a tight-knit flock, and wheel

settle on them, their gyrations in the sky in the setting sun are the most spectacular of all.

DERWENT MAY • What's about crested lark at Felixstowe, Suffolk: arctic warbler at Bishopstone Glen, Kent: buffbellied pipit on St Agnes, Isles of Scilly. Twitchers — listen after dark for migrant redwings. De-tails from Birdline, 0891 700222. rate, 50p at all other times.

The countryside is also full of more lethal hazards. Every year scores of Jack Russells vanish down badger setts and into rabbit warrens, are trapped underground and never seen again. This fate befell the Prince of Wales's much-loved Jack Russell, Pooh, but Jack Russells are relentless rabbiters and like nothing better than a bit of underground exploration. Jack Russells with undocked tails seem particularly at risk underground because, with a

then, to stop them going

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week, running about on the edge of a cornfield, Saffie ran her head into a wire snare. Fortunately, she did not struggle and sat there until Beauregard found her and brought us up to let her loose, but the dangers of strangling in snares is yet another risk dogs long tail, they find it difficult to run in the countryside. turn round in a narrow tunnel and get out again. Far better,

are about

Anyone who imagines the country life as one of endless tranquillity has never moved

constant vigilance or getting them on a lead when rabbits

Traps are another danger to

the questing hound. Only last

below, but many burrows lurk there with dogs. For peace of our of sight in hedgerows so, mind we have evolved our once to a call or a whistle. own Country Code for Dogs and the rules, though simple, are well worth following.

 The dog must be under control at all times, and never out of sight. • Keep the dog on a lead when near sheep, cattle or horse

• Stay out of farmyards and keep the dogs out of farm buildings.

● Buy a 1:25,000 scale map one that shows field boundaries - and stick to marked tracks. if a path runs though a field full of sheep, choose

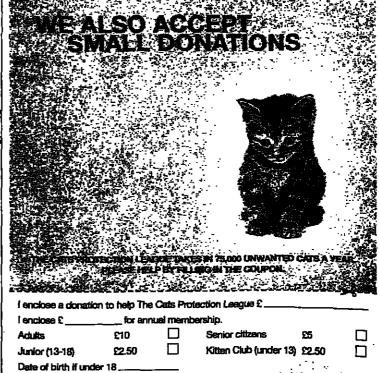
 Introduce the dog to neighbours and other local people; if it wanders off they will bring it home again.

Keeping to these few simple rules should ensure a troublefree time in the country. Most of the time country living is a joy. In spite of the hazards, our dogs are much fitter gambolling along the hedgerows than they were cooped up in South Park. They are much happier in the country and if we can get them to follow the rules we will be happy too.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

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AS THE holidaymakers leave the seaside, the waders arrive. In the last few weeks, millions of these shore-haunting birds have been landing on the coasts of Britain from as far away as northern Canada and Siberia. Some of them will stay here all the winter, some of them linger by the waves for a few weeks while they are moulting, some pass swiftly on southwards.

The most numerous of them all are the dunlins. They are small birds, about seven inches long, that run along the tideline with twinkling feet. Crustacea and worms are nearest to the surface of the sand where the small waves break and retreat. A dunlin will peck in the shallow water. then dart forward as it spots another morsel of food. At other times it will probe the sand, either slowly or with the speed of a needle on a sewing



machine - "stitching", this has been called.

More difficult to distinguish is the curlew sandpiper. The main difference is that these little birds have curved beaks. like a miniature curlew, while the dunlin's beak is usually straight. Dunlins are some-

times called the plover's page", because they have a habit of standing behind a golden plover when the two are feeding together. The plovers, who are nervous, proba-bly serve as useful watchmen for the dunlins. In fact it is the large plovers who are the

and bank with incredible speed above the water. As their undersides all turn towards the ground, they flash silver; as the birds turn again. their dark backs can blend with dark clouds over the sea. They like to roost on mudbanks and islets — and as they prepare to dive down and

BOOKS

Richard Stott on the horse-whisperer to the royals

Through a testtube, darkly

Gill Hornby hears the case in fiction against the

modern miracle of in-vitro fertilisation

I HAD a certain image of Jane Asher, actress, master-baker, perfect wife and mother: squeaky-clean, wholesome, el-egant and poised. And I had similar expectations of an Asher novel: squeaky-clean. wholesome, etc — and, surely. it would have an Aga or two. So it is a little surprising to open The Longing and find the first scene is a description of male masturbation. Is she another A. A. Gill? Are necrophilia and bestiality about to

Well, no. This masturbation is actually as respectable and middle-class as masturbation can be. Michael - the masturbator — is in a fertility clinic in Harley Street, trying to come up with a specimen in a test-tube, while Juliet, his wife, is having her eggs removed upstairs. After years of childlessness, the Evanses are starting in-vitro fetilisation treatment. IVF has brought hope, and, indeed, children, to thousands of unlucky couples: it is a modern miracle. But Asher is not looking on the bright side. Her novel is a powerful evocation not only of the pressures

of infertility on an outwardly

RICHLY presented. The Illustrated Book of Signs & Sym-

bols by Miranda Bruce

Mitford (Dorling Kindersley, £14.99 ISBN 0 7513 5428 7) is

irresistible to anyone interest-

ed in mysterious and mean-

ingful symbols. Listing thou-sands of historical and

cultural signs, this fascinating

book records their origins in art, religion, literature and

psychology with helpful cross-referencing. Here, the single

rose is identified not so much

as the emblem of passionate

love or the Labour party, but a

sign that all confidences are to

be held secret, hence the

central ceiling rose of Victori-

Stark social realism has

been the trademark of Theresa

Breslin's previous novels. Death Or Glory Boys (Methuen Ell.99, ISBN 0 416 19346 3)

tackles issues of war and

peace while reading like a

thriller. Out shopping with giggling friends when a terror-

ist blows up a nearby shop,

Sarah attends an Army ca-

reers lecture and, much to the

horror of pacifist friend. Phil.

joins the Officer Cadet Corps.

ning more bombings and the

cadets placed on standby, one

marvels at Sarah's capacity to

quote First World War poets

while debating the modern

army's peacekeeping role and

delivering skippable recruit-ment-style lectures. "Glow" by

With Cal, the terrorist, plan-

an architecture.

THE LONGING By Jane Asher HarperCollins, E14.99 ISBN 0 00 225019 5



Asher: moral concerns

perfect couple, but also the pressures of fertility treatment on the psyche. The most important passage in the book is the description of the doctor introducing Michael's sperm to Juliet's egg: "All one had to do was to choose and join up the components in a glorious pick n mix and then stand back and watch the miracle of creation take place." And that

From the origins of signs to the Army recruitment office

Clash of

symbols,

a bang on

the drum

King-Smith: wildlife battle

the way is cadet slang for

children, Dick King-Smith's well informed affinity with

animals and nature has been a

boon. In Godhanger (Double-day £9.99, ISBN 0385407785),

he writes for older readers,

allowing scope for a relatively

For generations of young

"good-looking or what?".

confusion between the role of man and that of deity has a

disastrous impact.
Juliet gradually loses her faith in everything - husband, marriage, future — and replaces it with a demented and hysterical attachment to the doctor who is treating her. It begins with her enjoying her internal examinations. Soon, she is round at his home throwing out his girlfriend. And then, with the final descent into madness, she steals another woman's baby from a pram and disappears. IVF is now a subject of such

importance to so many that it is time it made its way into fiction. This thought-provoking, polished and professional first novel is definitely a presentation of the case

The ignorant objections of Juliet's mother are obviously meant to be comic ("Test-tubes - there certainly wasn't any-thing like that in my day"); Jane Asher's real concern is for the moral haziness that surrounds the issue. And from one couple's hopeful trip to a modern tale of gothic horror.

unsentimentalised wildlife story. The shooting of a doe rabbit, whose "warm innards

... wriggled and slid uneasi-

ly" into the brambles, sets the

scene in hard focus as the

brutal forces of rural conser-

vation, represented by a rogue

gamekeeper, are set against the articulated counsels of a

huge, alert and mysterious bird who leads the belea-

guered wildlife in a deadly battle for survival. Like Jack

London's Call of the Wild. Godhanger, with its classical

wood engravings by Andrew

Davidson, has the genuine

threatening peril that hung

about the works of Mervyn

Peake has never quite been

equalled. Based on Titus

Groan from the Gormenghast

trilogy, his story Boy in Dark-ness (Hodder £9.99, ISBN 0

340 68323 6), opens with Titus

things" and escaping his pri-

mordial home for "one tre-

mendous day of insurrection".

What he encounters - a

subterranean level ruled over

by the blind and deceptively

gentle Lamb who ritually "re-

adjusts" humans into half

beasts - will give this genera-

tion of horror fans a glimpse of

what they could be missing. It

is called eloquence, and Peake,

MAUREEN OWEN

who died in 1968, had it.

at 14, "in need of hateful |

The icy aura of bizarre and

stamp of animal biography.

Out for a stroll and a chat: Monty Roberts with one of the Queen's horses at Windsor IF ONLY the Queen had heard of Monty Roberts earlier, how different the lives of our own dear Royal Family

might have been.
Roberts is a horse whisperer, a trainer who breaks in

young colts and fillies, persuading them to accept saddle, bridle, bit and rider. He does this by speaking their language. No nastiness, no pain, no halters. Just learn to speak Horse. The Queen heard of Roberts in 1988 and invited him to Windsor to break (Roberts hates the word) some of her wayward youngsters. She should not have stopped at the horses. Roberts learnt Horse, or

'Equus" as he calls it, by studying wild mustangs in Nevada and seeing how an. elderly mare dealt with a troublesome young male. In a complex ritual of body language he discovered how to win the trust and eventual acquiescence of the most troublesome young thing.

underground classics.

The stories share a family resem-

blance. They are set principally in

shadowy, depressed areas of Edin-

burgh and Glasgow. The characters

are mostly young and are either unemployed or locked into a debilitat-

ing cycle of self-abuse. Drugs, football,

depraved sex and pop music offer

temporary respite from lives of dimin-

ished horizons and defeated purpose.

In Gordon Legge's poignant Pop

horse sense

■ THE MAN WHO LISTENS TO HORSES By Monty Roberts Hutchinson, £16.99 ISBN 0 09 180206 7

Now it does not take a genius to see the ironies for our own matriarch here. If only she had learnt "Diana" or "Fergie", she could have taught them to be part of her herd, to accept the rein and bridle by gently coaxing.

Roberts, a former rodeo rider from California, was brought up by a thug of a father who broke horses in the traditional, brutal way. He rebelled against these methods and was soundly beaten for doing so. His life has been a constant battle to convince people that his methods really work and this book contains some wonderful vignettes of his adventures along the way.

The final picture of the

Queen is her sitting alone at a table set for two in the middle of a vast lawn at Windsor Castle. Snaking away from the table was a long white cable. When Roberts arrived, the Queen pressed a button at the end of the cable and tea was served.

Did she, in this splendid isolation, think of asking him about daughter-in-law whispering? Roberts, would have had the answer. As he says: "We all want the well-behaved, happy horse at the conclusion. The horse should not be traumatised and should elect to stay with you rather than go away."

A must for all also-rans in the Oueen Elizabeth Stakes.

Blocks off the old chip

THE night before I started reading Children, Panorama showed a heartbreaking exposé of one couple's hopeless efforts to shake off the shadows of their own childhood and learn to be better parents to their already doomed fouryear-old son, Peter. No one who saw it could be in any doubt that parenting is, all too literally, a hit-and-miss affair.

So it was with a sense almost of deja vu that I turned first to David Mamet's tiny story. Soul Murder, which offers a fleeting glimpse of a mother and her three children waiting at a station. She treats two of the children with love and gentleness, the third with coldness and harsh words, and induces an overwhelming sense of despair at being unable to intervene. It was a relief to turn next to Adam Mars-Jones's affectionate portrait of his mother in Blind Bitter Happiness, for here is a woman who overcame her own bleak childhood to be a fulfilled and loving parent.

Some contributions tend to the twee, and several are oddly tasteless, such as Blake Morrison's Doctors and Nurses or Susan Swan's Sluts.

Happiness Granta, £7.99 ISBN 0 903141 02 7

AGUAR'S X

In fact, this collection seems disproportionately sex-obsessed, so that a book which purports to evoke what it was like to be that lost personality in a vanished time. a child serves sometimes to depress rather than uplift.

But there are plenty of compensations. In Eternal Love, Karen E. Bender courageously explores the anxieties of a loving mother who must come to terms with her backward daughter's marriage to an equally slow-witted man. And in Arithmetic Town, Todd McEwen climbs convincingly inside the skin of a boy struggling with his maths homework: "I started to get real mad and I also had to go to the bathroom but, if I opened the door. Dad would be on me like a German shepherd, Are you finished? . Say, he'd think, let's just go

into the kid's room and see if he's having any fun by mistake?" That's more like it.

SALLY BAKER

Heart and home

IN BRIEF

ISBN 186046 081 X DERMOT HEALY'S evocative work - part memoir and part writer's notebook describes his childhood in Westmeath, where his father was a village policeman, and the family's subsequent move to a larger town, where Hea-ly's mother and aunt ran a café and bakery. The narrative in these sections fluctuates

between factual account and more elliptical, dreamlike passages, in which actual incidents are seen through the distorting glass of memory, or reconstituted as fiction.

describes the writer's return to his childhood home to care for his dying mother. She gives him a diary dating from 1962 the year his father died and he is able to revisit this half-forgotten period of his life, and relive the gauche but

sometimes passionate emotions of his formative years.

STILL LIVES By Christopher Bigsby Constable, £15.99 ISBN 0 09 476450 6 INSPIRED by the life of the American photographer, Lee Miller, Christopher Bigsby's novel offers a panoramic view of 20th-century history.
London in the Blitz. France
after the Liberation and the
horrors of Buchenwald are all

captured by his protagonist Sylvia Kayle's camera lens. Interspersed are episodes from Sylvia's personal life. Her troubled childhood in the Midwest is followed by a spell in Paris, and later by a posting to London, where she falls in love. Bigsby's rendering of these and the book's more famous events is sensitively done, but there are times when one feels he has stayed rather too close to the facts of his subject's life for the book to

THE BEND FOR HOME By Dermot Healy Harvill, £14.99

The second half of the book

work as fiction, not reportage. CHRISTINA KONING

Scotland the depraved THIS raw, harrowing collection of stories is the first offering from Rebel Inc., a new imprint specialising in new Scottish writing and in reprints of

■ CHILDREN OF ALBION Rebel Inc. £8.99 ISBN 0862416264

Life, for instance, three former friends hold monthly meetings to discuss their favourite pop records. When one of them is injured in an industrial accident, they unhappily realise that their meetings were really a doomed

attempt to recapture the elusive

2,538 2,029

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19

rhythms of their late adolescence.

In Alan Warner's After the Vision, the means of escape from drab reality for three young crematorium assistants is not music but drugs. In other stories it is deviance or sexual

humiliation. If there is a problem, it is that these writers are not rebellious enough; at least, they confuse unconventional subject matter with genuine mouldbreaking experimentation and they seldom take risks with form.

Irvine Welsh's The Rosewell Incident is typical of the collection; indeed Welsh is the archetypal new Scottish writer, whose originality and power as 2 a vernacular stylist is matched only by his unremitting desire to shock.

His story opens with two linked atrocities: a hammer is smashed into a youth's skull and a bored garage attendant has sex with two underage girls. Yet what at first seems mere selfindulgence deepens into something rich and unexpected as an alien spacecraft lands in Edinburgh.

JASON COWLEY

the field, with Bainbridge following close behind.

Both of them also say that

Seamus Deane's first novel

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Offer only available until Oct 29 when the Booker Prize winner will be announced.

The Times Bestseller List

HARDBACKS

LONGITUDE Dava Sobel (Fourth Estate, £12)

EVENING CLASS Maeve Binchy (Orion, £16.99)

DEATH IS NOW MY NEIGHBOUR Colin Dexter (Macmillan, £16.99)

TO THE HILT Dick Francis (Michael Joseph, £15.99)

DALGLISH: MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY Kenny Dalglish (Hodder, £16.99)

THE NIGEL LAWSON DIET BOOK Nigel Lawson (Michael Joseph, £12.99)

MY NAME ESCAPES ME Alec Guinness (Hamish Hamilton, £16)

GREAT GRAMMAR BOOK Jetnie Maizels (Kelson, £8.00)

LETTERLAND ABC Richard Carlisle (Nelson, £8.99)
ICON Frederick Forsyth (Bantam, £16.99)
THE STORY OF BRITAIN Roy Strong (Hutchinson, £35)
THE BRANDED MAN Catherine Cookson (Bantam, £16.99)

DESPERATION Stephen King (Hodder, £16.99)
DESPERATION Stephen King (Hodder, £16.99)
POPCORN Ben Elton (Simon & Schuster, £12.99)
FRIENDSHIP BOOK: 1997 Francis Gay (D. C. Thomson, £4.25)
GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS: 1997 (Guinness, £15.99)
ANTONIO CARLUCCIO'S ITALIAN FEAST Antonio Carluccio (BBC, £16.99)
INTEGRATED BUSINESS (Heinemann Education, £9.99)
THE MAN WHO LISTENS TO HORSES Monty Roberts
(Hutchinson, £16.99)

(Hutchinson, £16.99)
20 THE BEANO BOOK: 1997 (D. C. Thomson, £4.99)

PAPERBACKS

NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND Bill Bryson (Black Swan, £6.99) CASTING OFF Elizabeth Jane Howard (Pan, £6.99) THE OBSESSION Catherine Cookson (Corgi, £5.99) 2,653 1,804 1,584 1,525 1,461 1,440 1,423 WHIT Iain Banks (Abacus, £6.99)
WHIT Iain Banks (Abacus, £6.99)
THE FRENCH EXPERIENCE Marie-Thérèse Bongard (BBC, £10.99)
WINTER KING Bernard Cornwell (Penguin, £5.99)
FACON DE PARLER: PART I Angela Aries (Headway, £8.99)
THE HORSE WHISPERER Nicholas Evans (Corgi, £5.99)
MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATIONAL BEHAVIOUR Laurie J. Mullins (Pitman, £22,95)
ESPANA VIVA Derek Utley (BBC, £8.99)
DEUTSCH PLUS Reinhard Tenberg (BBC, £12.99)
THE HIGHWAY CODE Dept. of Transport (HMSO, £0.99)
BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM Kate Atkinson 1,291 1,196 1,095 || |4 (Black Swan, £6.99) HIGH FIDELITY Nick Hornby (Indigo, £5.99) GREEN MILE 6: COFFEY ON THE MILE Stephen King (Penguin, £1.99) 1,006 1,004 HOPE Len Deighton (HarperCollins, £5.99)
PASOS 1: A FIRST COURSE IN SPANISH Rosa Maria Martin (Hodder, £10.99)
BEGINNING PSYCHOLOGY Malcolm Hardy (OUP, £8.99) 958 928 887 881

19 SOPHIE'S WORLD Jostein Gaarder (Phoenix, 66.99)
20 CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN Louis de Bernières (Minerva, E6.99) This Times list monitored 41.345 titles representing high-street sales of E5.7 million during the week.

SUPPLIED BY WHITAKER BOOKTRACK (01420 545420)

Who reads Booker nominees?

Prize, Alias Grace. She sold 368 copies of that in hardback

WE WERE planning to publish this week the sales figures of books by the authors who appear on the Booker Prize shortlist, Derwent May writes. But when BookTrack came up with these figures for the week ending September 28, we found that in the 600 bookshops it monitors, only two of the shortlisted authors had sold any books at all among the top 5,000 titles of all kinds. These were Marga-

ret Atwood and Beryl Bainbridge. So we have decided to give (below) a chart of all the 18 authors on the previously announced long list whose books appeared in that BookTrack 5,000.

The Atwood and Bainbridge figures are included there, of course, but some long-listed authors who did not make it to the shortlist appear there too, notably Ben Elton with his novel Popcorn.
Atwood is obviously being

widely read at the moment, with five paperbacks of earlier books by her showing up, as well the new novel with which she could win the Booker in nine days, since it was only published on September 19. Beryl Bainbridge's novel about the Titanic, Every Man For Himself, also got off to a quick start - it was published

on September 1 - but no earlier books by her appear on this sales list. bookshop chains of Water-stone's and Dillon's, which are

Bainbridge: quick start

We checked with the not included in the BookTrack chart, and they also report that Atwood has been leading

about Derry in the 1940s and 1950s, Reading in the Dark, is selling well. A relevant point here is that Waterstone's made it its September "Book of the Month". The other three novels on the shortlist are A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry (Faber, £15.99), Last Orders by

Graham Swift (Picador. E15.99) and The Orchard on Fire by Shena Mackay (Heinemann, £12.99). All of these were published much earlier in the year, and the bookshops point out that they all sold well when they first appeared. But it is the normal pattern for there to be a burst of hardback sales when a novel comes out, then a falling off until the paperback app-

Will the publication of the shortlist start all these books selling? We shall ask BookTrack to monitor sales again in three weeks time, just before the winner is chosen on October 29.

SALES OF AUTHORS ON THE BOOKER LONG LIST

MAGARET ATWOOD Labrador Fiasco (Bloomsbury, £1)

BEN ELTON Popcorn (Simon & Schuster, £12.99)

HELEN DUNMORE A Spell of Winter (Penguin, £6.99)

MARGARET ATWOOD Alias Grace (Bloomsbury, £16.99)

BERYL BAINBRIDGE Every Man for Himself (Duckworth, £14.99)

MARGARET ATWOOD The Handmaid's Tale (Vintage, £6.99)

MARGARET ATWOOD Life Before Man (Vintage, £6.99)

MARGARET ATWOOD Lady Oracle (Virtage, £6.99)

HELEN DUNMORE Zennor in Darkness (Penguin, £6.99)

MARGARET ATWOOD The Robber Bride (Virtago, £5.99)

BARBARA VINE House of Stairs (Penguin, £5.99)

PATRICK McGrath The Grotesque (Penguin, £5.99)

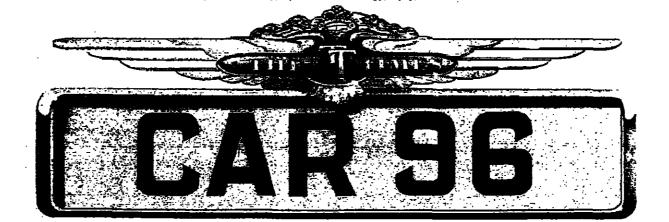
JANE GARDAM Black Woolly Porry and White Chalk Horse (Walker, £3.99)

محددا من الرصل

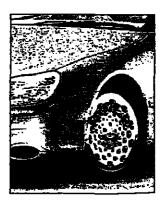


How the sports gear slows down a new Mini

Page 2



Cars you won't see at Britain's motor show



SATURDAY OCTOBER 5 1996

JAGUAR'S XK8 A CAR TO MATCH THE E-TYPE LEGEND: PAGE 5



The XK8 breaks the lap record at Pirelli's wet-weather track. Prototypes have endured a million miles of testing through Arctic wastes, over deserts and around thousands of high-speed laps at the Motor Industry Research Association

It beats Porsches — so very comfortably

he man in the Porsche was not happy, Kevin Eason writes. His foot was flat on the floor of the 911 Turbo, the tail swinging as he roared through the left-hander, leaving a massive spray of water.

Omt

massive spray of water.

But he couldn't go faster than Mike Cross. Jaguar's top chassis engineer had broken the lap record at Pirelli's wet-weather test track, and the man from Porsche was having a strop. He was driving one of the world's most acclaimed sports cars and Cross was in a sleek cruiser not supposed to charge round racetracks.

But the man from Porsche had underestimated the new Big Cat. It might have wood and leather and a stereo system capable of filling the Albert Hall, it might be long and elegant — but it could outmanoeuvre every other car tested at the Vizzola track in Northern Italy.

It took a million miles of testing to create Jaguar's XK8, pounding through Arctic wastes, over desert roads in baking temperatures and through thousands of circuits around the top-secret high-speed bowl at the Motor Industry Research Association's centre at Nuneaton in Warwickshire.

I was the first British journalist to see the XK8, then in the last stages of testing as Cross threw the coupe around Vizzola, hurtling through fountains of water on a surface like polished glass.

First impression was that XK8 was as long as the XJS it replaces, and the XJS was as nimble as a canal boat. How could Cross get up speed, never mind cope with a track covered in surface water, to test the stickability of the new Pirelli P6000 tyres to the limit? The XK8 seemed like an unlikely candidate for a lap record: it is a big, heavy rear-wheel-drive car which will be used mainly for touring in grand style.

Mike Cross is an understated type of guy, a quietly spoken west-Midlander who looks so relaxed, he could be motoring's Perry Como. Behind the wheel though, he is a class act, a driver so good that he is highly rated by Jackie Stewart, his sensitivity for a car so sharp that he has the last word. When you drive a Jag, you are driving a car tuned by Mike Cross.

For the XK8, the job was as tricky as it gets, balancing the ride to combine handling with comfort. "People who buy a Jaguar don't want their fillings shaking loose because the set-up is so hard for sporty driving, as you would find in an out-and-out sports car," he says. "But we have such a good power-train in the car, we wanted XKS to have a sporty feel. Judging that combination has taken a lot of thought and time."

And Cross has got it just right, for after claiming the record at Vizzola, he threw me the keys to a

convertible and we drove in convoy from Northern Italy, across Switzerland and Germany. The contrast between being thrown by G-forces across the car at Vizzola and the seven-hour cruise was stark on the circuit, the car roared and twisted; on the road, it was quiet, placid, almost soothing, eating mile after high-speed mile. As we hit the Autobahn, Cross's coupé suddenly surged away and I followed, the speedo needle winding round past 100mph, then 120mph. The car never wavered, the only intrusion the roar of the

big Pirellis on the tarmac.

But the best was yet to come: our destination was the Nurburgring, the legendary 14-mile grand circuit, pensioned off because of the terrible attrition rate among drivers. Peter Collins died there, and Niki Lauda was horrifically burned when he crashed on one of the dozens of corners that seem to leap at unwary drivers.

Bizarrely, the track is open to the public who, for a fiver, can whizz around it in the family hatchback. But they have to be careful to dodge test teams from carmakers who regularly use the circuit to press cars to the limit on a variety of bends and surfaces difficult to find elsewhere. And Cross was going to let me drive: 14 miles, flat out on a strange circuit famous for crashes in a pre-production version of a £50,000 car.

First time around though, the Jag felt perfectly comfortable. The engine pulled so hard that I could shift through second and third gears manually to power ferociously through bends. With traction control on, the car could not be wrong-footed and even with it switched off, handling was completely predictable so that even I felt brave enough to drive full-pelt without fear of adding myself to the Nurburgring casualty list.

lick the wheel and a nick on the gearshift and the XK8 was flying, until round the final, long bend flat-out shifting through fourth up and over the crest of the high hill onto the final long, long straight. Into fifth and the speedo was passing 130mph as the Jag straightened up. In the distance, there was a dot, a slow-moving dot which rapidly grew into a battered Fiat Uno on my inside, which, compared with the Jag, looked as though it was standing still. As the XK8 whooshed level, beaming faces of a man and wife appeared at the window waving furiously as though Michael Schumacher had

swept past.

If they were disappointed the driver was only me, they didn't show it. They must have been delighted enough to catch a glimpse of a car which is about to add to the legend of Jaguar.



Cruiser that is at home on the racetrack

HOW THE CAT REJOINED THE CREAM

aguar is the most efficient car company in Ford's worldwide empire, according to executives who have turned the business around within seven years.

The according was hard won

The accolade was hard won, with the workforce halved and wholesale changes

to assembly lines as Ford executives battled to reduce costs, improve efficiency and eradicate the faults that had dented Jaguar's reputation with buyers.

Nick Scheele.

Jaguar's chairman, says: "We are now producing quality better than almost anybody else in the world and the customers are noticing that

more and more."
Ford bought Jaguar in 1989 for £1.6 billion, when the company seemed to be brimning with confidence. However, the success hid problems of overstaffing and inefficiency at its factories in Birmingham and Coventry where working practices were years out of date. When Ford appointed manufacturing expert Bill

Hayden to run Jaguar, he could barely believe what he saw: Jaguar was the worst car factory he had seen outside of Russia, he said.

There have been leans and

There have been leaps and bounds since, making the XK8 the best-built car ever to come from Jaguar. Evi-

dence comes from Jaguar's main market. America. where the regular surveys from J. D. Power and Associates are regarded as the ultimate guide to the best cars on the market. Jaguar is outstripping Mercedes and

Nick Scheele: ou better quality M

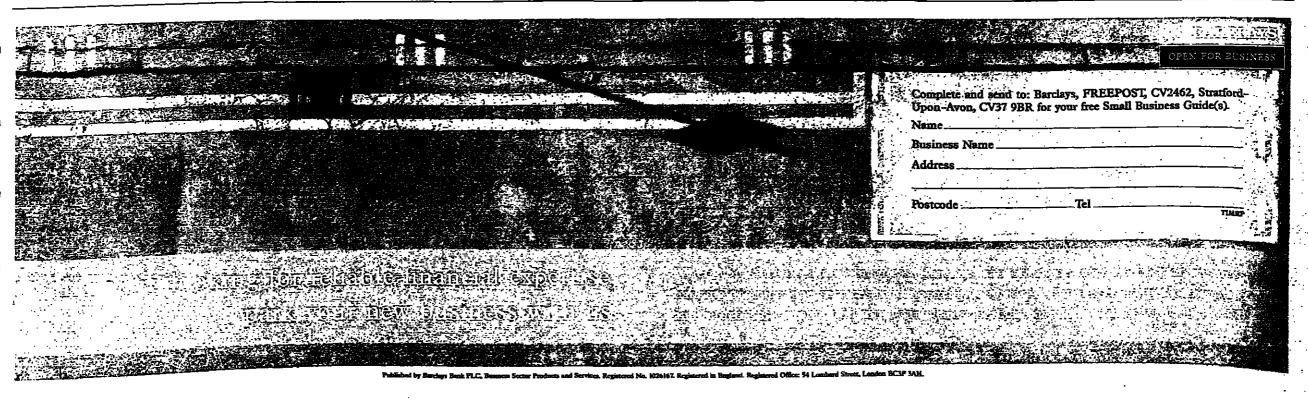
heele: outstripping
uality Mercedes and
BMW: now its target is the leader, the Toyota
Lexus.
"We are not for behind."

"We are not far behind," says Scheele. "Jaguar has had the will to transform the business and the rewards are following."

The rewards include Ford's

The rewards include Ford's decision to let Jaguar build a new smaller car — a reincarnation of the old, much-loved Mark II models. It will be launched in three years, built in Birmingham.

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Another Tony swerves right

The party conference season and the likes of Mr Neil Hamilton have conspired to take up altogether too much space in the media, blocking out reports of party conferences that really matter. So Driven to Distraction sent its own reporters to the annual conference of the Democratic Auto Users Party (Daup), which was held this year in the glittering surroundings of the Chicane Winter Gardens, Silverstone.

Huge change has come about in Daup since the election of a dynamic new leader, Tony Walnut-Dash, two years ago. Walnut-Dash and his lovely wife, Cherry Upholstery, have dragged Daup into the late 20th century. Gone are the old, damaging commitments, such as the promotion of car coats and subsidies for the starting-handle industry. Protectionist jingoism has been routed, to the point where any member driving a British-made car can expect automatic expulsion.

Tony and Cherry (as we have learned to call them) arrived at Silverstone in a BMW convertible, to DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

be greeted by Daup's life president, Mr Murray Walker, who led the adoring throng in a chorus of We'll keep the chequered flag flying here as he escorted Tony to the podium.

'Fellow motorists" Tony began. "Let me not pretend for a moment that I am from Old Daup. My background, nay, my whole instinct, is New Daup. I know that many of you here today were educated in the public sector, you were taught to drive by former bus drivers and ex-



sergeants in the transport corps. hereas I went to a private school. "And what did I learn at BSM? I learned to steer a straight course, I learned to indicate before turning, I learned to consider other road users. In short, I learned what you learned. albeit without having to practise on a disused airfield. We are, you and me, as one in that we have arrived at the same destination by different routes. And now that we are here, you have asked me: where are we going?"

Walnut-Dash went on to thrill his audience with an eloquent exposition of his committment to European Motoring Union (Emu). The Single European Car will be the core project at the heart of my administration" he said. "The Sec means egalitarianism, it will be the manifestation of an integrated Europe.

"It will be the stakeholder's car. Every individual working on it, every individual driving it, will be able to feel part of a single move-

ment, to have a shared destiny. A car with French bodywork, German engines, Italian interior design. Spanish bumpers, Greek hubcaps and, yes, a logo created in Soho. Walnut-Dash had earlier won

ringing endorsement for his policy when National Steering Committee elections routed the left and returned candidates who favour driving on the right, although sceptics doubt whether such a switch can be "phased in" as Daup is promising. Opponents claim the switch will

lead to chaos and say that Daup is ague about how much the change will cost. Walnut-Dash's avuncular deputy, John Tractor, is said to have opposed the scheme, but came on board in exchange for a promise that Soho logo designers would be

allowed to join a trade union.

Walnut-Dash, speaking from beneath a video wall showing the MI with no lanes coned off (opponents claim the film is a fake) ended his speech with a denunciation of the present government: "Seventeen years of jams! Seventeen years in which the Association of Traffic Cone Manufacturers got rich and the rest of us got late. Railways sold to millionaires! Hard shoulders packed with sobbing women!

I say to you today: only Daup can release the British driver from this corrupt and shaming madness. Drive back to your constituencies and prepare for government.

higher final gearing aimed at

cutting noise and making the

Rover says: "This, coupled

with an inevitable weight in-

crease of around 3.5 per cent.

means a slight reduction in 'on paper' performance. The per-

formance figures however re-

The new Mini and Mini Cooper, unveiled in the week

that Rover chief executive Wal-

ter Hasselkus said Rover

would be building a totally

new-design Mini from the year 2000, is likely to be the

last version based on the

mould-breaking Sir Alec

Hasselkus said: "The Mini

was launched in 1959, and has

been an incredible success

story in itself, and while I am

saying that it will be replaced.

it will also be a continuation.

There will be a new Mini but

with the same emotions of the

Until the new car arrives.

Rover is hoping that this interim model will fill the gap

and give Mini lovers enough

to be going on with. Rover says

the new car has benefited from

Rover spokesman Denis Chick said: "People have

asked us why we have spent so much money redesigning the 1997 Mini when there is a new

car coming, and the answer is

that the Mini is very popular

still, and the name is very,

very important to us, and we

want to keep it strong".

worth" of new investment.

tens of millions of pounds

Issigonis design.

main very competitive."

ride more civilised.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

LONDON A21 Orpington; roadworks on Sevenoaks Road between Green Street Green and Stone House Lane. Delays. A217 Wandsworth; roadworks on the south side of Wandsworth Bridge will cause delays on the

approaches.
A400 Kentish Town:
resurtacing on Fortress Road.
Southbound traffic
diverted from the Archway
roundabout and northbound from Camden

A406 East Finchley; traffic down to a single lane on the North Circular Road at various locations between the A1 and Colney Hatch Lane. A501 Islington; restrictions between High Street and Waldey Street for pavement resurfacing work. Expect delays as a result.

 SOUTH EAST M4 lunction 10; entry and exit slip roads at the Reading East (A329M) junction closed overnight between in both directions. Diversions. both directions. Diversions.

A404 High Wycombe;
temporary lights controlling
traffic on Amersham Road
for cable laying work will cause
delays at peak periods.

M25 junctions 2-3;
contraflow between the
Dartford and M20 junctions
for major roadworks in both
directions with occasional

directions, with occasional slip road closures as well. Expect regular delays. M25 junctions 6-10; trictions and lane closure both ways between Godstone and the A3. A320 Guildford; Stoke Road closed outbound. Diversions.

SOUTH WEST

lights. A381 Teignmouth; roadworks between Salcombe Dip and Inverteign Drive. M5 junctions 17-20; contraflow and 50mph speed limit across the Avonmouth

Bridge. A38 Gloucester; roadworks at the Cole Avenue roundabout. Long delays. A39 Wells; work on Glastonbury Road at the junction with the Relief Road. Delays. (until 8th October)

● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA
A500 Stoke on Trent;
contraflow on the D-Road
between Talke and Stoke on Trent as roadworks continue. Expect regular

M6 junctions 20-21a: carriageway reduced to three lanes flear the Thelwall

A6 Lock with no right mm into Donnington Lane.
A14 Halesworth; temporary lights on London Peed

Road. A41 Wolverhampton; temporary lights on Bilston Road between Eagle Street and Chillington Street. Peak-NORTH M6 junctions 30-32: Jane

closures both ways for repair work between the M61 repair work between the M61 and M55 junctions will cause delays as traffic builds at peak periods.

A679 Burnley; lane closures for water main work on Accrington Road at the Liverpool Road junction.

Delays at peak periods, especially from the M65 at junction 9.

A635 Barnsley: Doncaster A635 Barnsley; Doncaster Road closed outbound for

resurfacing work, with diversions operating via the A61 Sheffield Road. Expect peak-time delays. M1 junctioin 47; major long-term roadworks continue around the Leeds junction with lane and speed restrictions as a result. Expect delays on the M1, M621 and Dewsbury Road.

 WALES
 A470 Powys; temporary lights controlling traffic at Fridd Fawr near Llanbrynmair as roadworks

continue. M4 junctions 35-34; contraflow with traffic down to two lanes in both directions two lates in both offections as major roadworks continue between the Bridgend and Uantrisant junctions.

A472 Pontypool; contraflow between Ponternoile and the Heron roundabout. Expect lengthy delays, especially from the A4042.

M4 junctions 23e-24; lane closures between the Magor and Newport junctions as major widening work continues. Expect regular rush-hour delays.

Scotiand A92 Tay Road Bridge; lane closure southbound on Tay Road Bridge for maintenance work. Expect delays at peak periods. A8 Edinburgh, Princes Street closed eastbound to motor vehicles, with a diversion operating via South Charlotte Street, Queen Street and York Place. M8 junction 15; Stirling Castle Street Eastbound off-ramp are closed for roadworks.

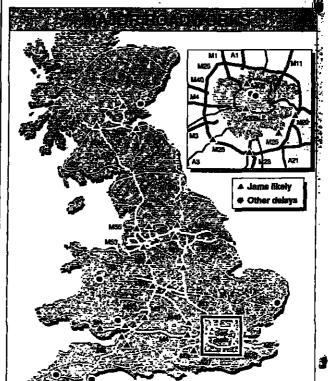
A9 Perth; restrictions in both directions between Perth and the Highland boundary at various locations for

Northern Ireland M22; contraflow between Ballygrooby ad Dunsilly for bridge maintenance work. M1; down to two lanes both ways between the Saintfield

Road and Ballynahinch Road bridges for maintenance Work. 2 Lame Road; temporary difficiency on Larne Roadeds Road in Carrickfergus. Expect

A28 Markethill; resurfacing on Armagh Road with temporary lights controlling traffic will cause delays at peak periods. A27 Craigavon; roadworks at the Shorts crossroads with

temporary lights controlling



NEWS IN BRIEF

Not the people's Ka

ANXIOUS to introduce opinion-formers from China, the world's biggest marketplace, to its new Ka model, Ford invited seven top Chinese journalists - including the 80-year-old editor of the People's Daily — to the Paris Motor Show, Six Kas were lined up ready for a tour of France's best rural roads . . . except for one slight hitch. Only one of the Chinese delegation could drive. A weary Ford PR man says: "Well, they can sit in it anyway."

Why aye, Nissan

NISSAN is to build a new estate car at Washington, Tyne and Wear. The £70 million investment means the plant can build about 20,000 of the Primera-based estates. Styled by Nissan in Munich, the five-seater will be for worldwide distribution. Washington is also to start making Primera diesel engines. replacing equipment previously imported from Japan.

Catholic tastes

WHEN Pope John Paul II came to Britain, he travelled around in a converted Range Rover. But his new car will be a little swankier, for the Vatican has ordered a five-litre V8 Mercedes S500, which is being tailored for Papal needs by a company called Stola in Turin.

Fiat hike

FIAT has raised prices by an average 1.6 per cent. The range now starts with the Cinquecento S at £5.682 up to the range-topping Ulysse 1.9TD EL people-carrier which will get a new sticker price

Grr, it's the Mini Mouth

Stamp of true

CAR PRIZES











■ MORE THAN 50,000 readers have so far entered the competition to win one of five classic cars which was launched in Car 96 last month. The prizes in our contest, a Triumph TR3A. MG TC. Morgan Plus Four. Austin Healey 100/4 and Jaguar XK 120, were inspired by this set of five stamps ranging from 20p to 63p. Issued to commemmorate the centenary of the British motor industry they went on sale last Tuesday. They feature pictures taken by Simon Clay. photographer for the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, of examples of each of the margues.



tually makes the car go slower. and offer a Mini Cooper version that is more of a dawdler than its predecessor. Rover, giving the 1997 Mini its most radical redesign in 37 years, has decided that new Minis will sell on image alone. jettisoning any pretensions to greater performance.

It comes in any

Instead, major advances for the range include putting foam in the car's roof-lining, moving the radiator from the side to the front of the engine Day, and introducing the moment" control stalks that allow the driver to reach the lighting controls without lunging across the cabin.

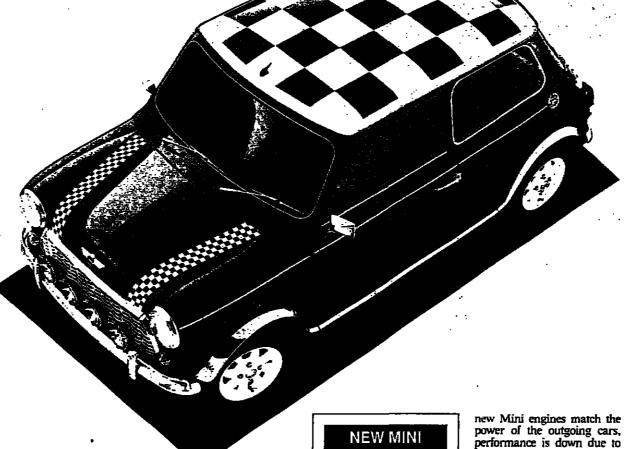
The changes will be enough

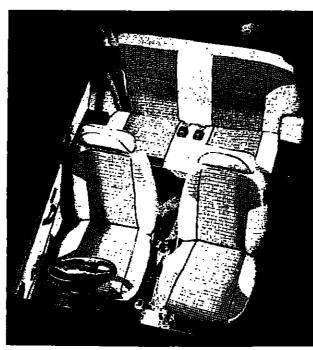
to keep the Mini rolling up to the year 2003 when tougher emission and crash regulations spell the end of Britain's most successful car. By then, Rover will have a new Mini powered by engines made by Chrysler in Latin America. For now, Rover will sell just the Mini and Mini Cooper versions, identical apart from the Cooper's distinguishing white roof, bonnet stripes, spot-lamps and sports alloy wheels. The model to have suffered most from this is the Cooper, the mean machine that endowed both Michael Caine and the Mini with genuine film-star status in The Italian Job, that slayed its rallying competitors in the 1960s and was once the epitome of fast motoring. For it is

slower than the car it replaces. Whereas the 1995-96 Mini Cooper has a top speed of 92mph, the new model can only reach 90mph, and while this year's car will go from a standing start to 60mph in 11.5 seconds, the new, improved version will take 12.2 seconds.

The Sports Pack is at best a misnomer, at worst a somewhat cynical way of relieving Mini owners of a further £795. Adding the Sports Pack's Minilite Style alloy wheels, four front-mounted rally-style fog lamps, chrome tailpipe and extra instrument gauges, reduces the top speed still further to 84mph because of the extra aerodynamic drag of the wider 13in tyres.

What might to some appear to be a triumph of packaging over content in fact, says Rover, reflects the desires of today's Mini customers:





The Italian fob: racing style is more talk than torque

Typical Mini buyers are now less likely to be families seeking a second or third car, but increasingly to be single, welleducated professional and managerial people desiring a fashion statement. The Mini and the Mini Cooper have identical 63bhp engines, identical performance figures, and both can be fitted with the sluggish Sports Pack for the ultimate in street style".

says: "Both cars are priced identically in standard form -customers simply choose the imagery that they prefer. The 1997 Mini allows the customer to choose a wide range of unique colours, trims, options and accessories enabling the car truly to reflect the owner's personality."

Behind the imagery are real changes however. The Mini

with a major challenge. So how do they differ? Rover

was first launched 37 years ago, and in shape and size is virtually unchanged. Developing the car to meet ever more stringent emissions and safety regulations has presented Mini and Rover designers

Engine: Four-cylinder, 63bhp, 1,275cc

speed manual gearbox.

seconds (12.8 with Sports

petrol, driving four-

Top speed: 90mph

(84mph with Sports

Economy: 33.4mpg urban (including cold

start), 51.8mpg out of

Equipment: Driver airbag, seat-belt pre-

tensioners, side door

anti-intrusion beams.

immobiliser, alarm.

wood fascia.

Price: £8,995.

town, 43mpg combined.

0-60mph: 12.2

Pack).

New engine design, including multi-point fuel injection. air pollution laws by borrowing on engine management technology from the Rover 800 and MGF sportster, while halved at motorway speeds.

noise from the car has been

For the first time, the Mini zets a driver's-side airbag.

means the Mini can meet all

The new Minis also get the MGF steering wheel, and seats based on the design of the new Rover 200. While the

SOLID GOLD CADILLAC' HAD

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long

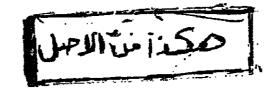


WAS THE FIRST ALL-BRITCH

es 1923 Sunbeam

THE BELGIUM IT IS ILLEGE TO RACE OSTRICHES ON PUBLIC HIGHWAY.

FOOTMAN JAMES





Preview: inside information on the newest concept cars being shown in Europe, but not in Britain

The future: you saw it here first

MERCEDES-BENZ

They are the most desirable cars in the world, dream models of the future which will be drooled over by thousands of motorists - but not in Britain, Kevin Eason writes. For while visitors to the Paris Motor Show this week were shown a series of delectable concept cars, none of them will be coming to the British International Motor Show which opens later this month at the NEC in Birmingham.

come too close together to allow them enough time to transfer cars from Paris to Birmingham — which is a pity for visitors to the Birmingham show, which will celebrate 100 years of British carmaking this year. Even though Britain is one of the birthplaces of the motor industry, with more than its share of famous names, and remains an important centre for design, engineering and motor

regard the British show as having the same status as exhibitions in Paris, Frankfurt and Geneva.
The good news, though, is that

Car 96 was in Paris to bring you details of the cars you cannot see (unless you are willing to book a day out on a Eurostar ticket to the French capital). Cars like the F200, which was

rolled out by Mercedes. Not only

has also loaded the F200 with the

gadgets the company's engineers believe we will all have on our cars in the next century. The most astonishing innovation is in the cabin, which has none of the familiar cues of the modern motor car. Steering wheel and

pedals are abolished to be replaced

a fighter pilot-style set of

the central joystick to the left or right, accelerating by pushing the stick forward and braking by pulling it back. There are no conventional systems under the bonnet either, with the messages from the joystick sent electronically instead of mechanically.

Rear-view mirrors have been

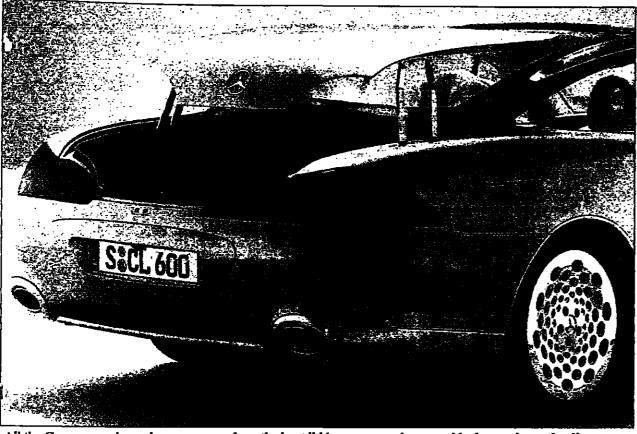
abolished, replaced by video cameras which transfer images to a dashboard video screen.

There is no key to enter, not even a remote "blipper", just a magnetic card which unlocks doors which then sweep out and over to allow a more generous entry gap. Once under way, information is relayed to the driver digitally on electronic screens while the car senses every movement, ironing out bends and bumps, the suspension adjusting to prevent the bodywork from pitch-

Even the headlamps are "intelli-

gent", providing extra light as the speed of the car increases, while the boot lid is a clever four-joint system which levers upwards to provide the maximum loading space.

They are all features Jurgen Hubbert, head of Mercedes' car business, told visitors to the Paris show will be with us in the next century, the technical experimentation of today becoming the standard engineering of tomorrow. Pity you will have to wait to see it.

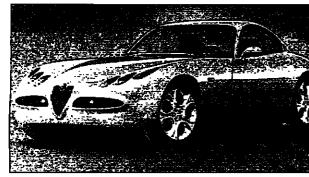


All the German engineeering money can buy: the boot lid levers upwards to provide the maximum loading space



Inside the F200, the instruments look and function more like the controls of a fighter jet than a car dashboard







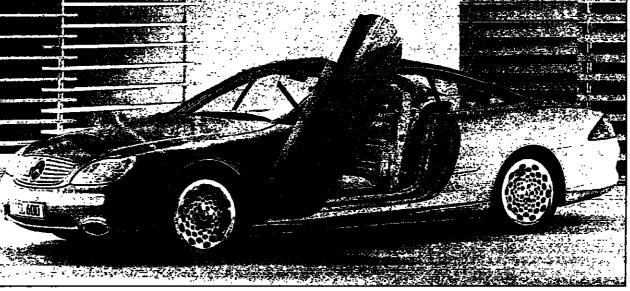
One vision of the future unveiled in Paris created such interest that although it was not originally destined for Birmingham. desperate efforts to get it to the NEC were under way this week, writes Alan Copps. The Alfa Romeo Nuvola is a

striking-looking concept which has some resemblance to the company's highly successful GTV coupé, although it is larger and its low rear end goes very much against the current trend for oupes. But under the skin Alfa has turned the clock back to the days when sports car bodies were built individually on a separate chassis.

The two-seater shown at Paris was a bold, aggressive design drawn up by Alfa's own styling centre on the space-frame chassis. The striking rear end has more than a hint of 1930s sports cars about it but features high-tech lights that give adequate illumination even though they lie almost flat.

There are no plans to put it into production, but it was built using techniques applicable to production rather than prototype models. Alfa says the idea was to produce a chassis which it could offer to various bespoke coachbuilders to experiment with different body styles. It's an old-fashioned way to answer the current demand for more and more "niche" models.

The engine, however, is more than a concept. The 24valve, twin turbo, 2.5-litre V6 is due to appear in a new version of the Alfa 166.



All the gadgets to take driving into the 21st century: magnetic cards unlock doors which then sweep out and over

FIAT MULTIPLA

The race to produce a smaller version of the people carrier has started with a vengeance. Although Renault would seem to be in pole position with its Megane Scenic (see page 12), Fiat is hard on its heels, writes Alan Copps. The Italian company's latest proposal for carrying six people around in a small car is the Multipla, which has two rows of seats three abreast. Sounds like the perfect solution for talkative families.

Unveiled at the Paris show, the car is destined for production within two years. It is the result of a strict challenge to the company's style department: to create a car no longer than the Tipo or Brava but able to carry six people and their luggage at a cost signifi-cantly lower than an MPV. The Multipla bears the

name of the 1960 version of the Fiat 600, one of several vehicles that might claim to be the first people carrier. However, as the designers set to work it looked less and less like any

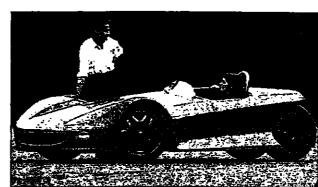
It is wider than most cars of



its class but still within normal limits. To accommodate the seats three abreast, door handles and armrests are set flush with the window sills. The middle front seat is positioned slightly further back to allow driver comfort and can be replaced by a table or a refrigerator, according to

The seats at the back can be vivelled through 180 degrees to increase load-carrying capacity or be easily removed to accomodate extra luggage or sports equipment like skis and picycles. Fiat claims that it will have twice as much space for luggage as a conventional car. One of the most innovative items is the fascia where the

other controls individually shaped to aid recognition and use. The central instrument panel is shaped and raised so that the driver can consult it without taking eyes off the road, while the heating and ventilation controls seem to sprout from the centre of the



The Asphalte: like driving an arcade-game car

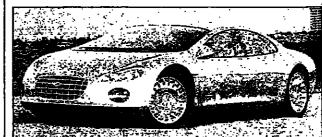
kilowatt electric motor, backed up by a small four-cylinder petrol engine which can either boost power or act as a generator to restore electric power. That gives the car a range of about 190 miles and a top speed of about 70mph. The pattern of simplicity set by the Asphalte is continued in the Touareg, with designers wanting to hop into a vehicle which has no doors but which stands

comparatively tall. At least

you do not have to remove the steering wheel and, once in, you can adjust the wheel and pedals for the best driving position.

Better still for the off-road enthusiast, there is nothing you can get dirty. Peugeot's young design team believes that once you get home from pounding the field with your muddy wellies, you just take a hose to the inside and give the Touareg a good soaking.





shores, Kevin Eason writes. Chrysler showed its LHX concept limousine but executives are hinting that the next generation of the company's biggest models will look like this. Under the bonnet is a 250 brake-horse power 3.5-litre mated to a four-speed automatic but it is the dramatic sweep of the car's lines which make it so beautiful. The sculpted nose and raked windscreen lead to a long, flat rear, held up by the fattest 20-inch

there is an entertainment centre for rear-seat passengers, while all the dashboard data for the driver is housed in a central pod at eyeline level.

Chrysler has become darned good at design and experts reckon the company will chop off the rear overhang of the concept model to put a slightly more compact design into production for the US within three years. But still no sign of it coming to Britain in right-hand-drive form. unfortunately.



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PEUGEOT ASPHALTE

Fans of arcade games will know how to start up Peugeot's Asphalte. Instead of a conventional ignition key. drivers just slip a token into the dashboard and push the start button — a bit like a Sega computer challenge. Kevin Eason writes.

The idea is among a torrent to come from Peugeot's design studios as the company ex-plores the future. The question now is whether Peugeot is willing to allow those ideas to run riot through its conven-tional car range, for there are no plans as yet to build anything as radical as the Asphalte or its concept sister

ar, the Touareg.

Pity, because the Asphalte is a pretty car following in the wheeltracks of Renault's fabulous little two-seater Spider. which has gone into production. The Asphalte is similarly spartan, with no doors so the driver and passenger have to

hop into seats which have been moulded into the bodywork. The steering wheel comes off to allow the driver entry and then there are no seat adjustments: you instead adjust the pedals electroni-

The bodyshell is a tough carbon composite for strength and, if the driver is alone, a shield can be fitted over the passenger compartment for extra rigidity and protection from the elements. There is no windscreen, just wind deflec-tors designed to push the airflow over the heads of the two-seater's occupants.

The bonnet lies almost flat, which gave Peugeot's engineers an intriguing and important problem to solve: how to get the engine in. Their answer was to "flatten" a conventional 90 brake-horse power 1.6-litre, taken from the Peugeot 106, and rake it at a steep angle of 71 degrees,

The Touareg: off-road and hose-down technology

transversely in front of the cabin. It is coupled to an automatic gearbox controlled from a stalk at the side of the steering wheel. Although the engine is not that powerful, Peugeot reckons that the smooth aerodynamics and light weight - only 580kg will allow the Asphalte to surge to 62mph in 9.5 seconds and on to a top speed of 120mph. How it handles will be open to debate, though, for the rear wheels are set substantially closer together than the front, allowing the rear to narrow to a teardrop-style shape. If it doesn't turn too well, at least the safety package is good; as soon as the driver clicks the seatbelt, two roll bars pop up while the cockpit has high sides.

Peugeot turned to more unconventional power for its four-wheel-drive Touareg. It has a centrally mounted 35-

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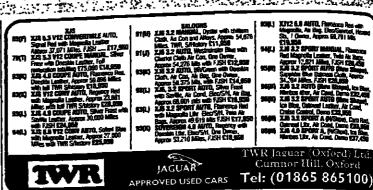
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So cool, it could have been Lyons-made

Right price, right pace, right time: a drive in the big cat's new sports

car can only silence the critics

he scope for error was vast. Bob Dover knows that living with a legend is all very well, but the expectations are high when the wraps come off every new Jaguar. Sir William Lyons built one of the most famous names in the motoring world with a succession of ground-breaking designs to create some of the most desirable cars of all time. Trouble is that the legacy of legend can be hard to bear in a tougher world when the gap between the competition is

But Mr Dover can sleep easily in his bed tonight, for the XKS is a car that Sir William would have approved of. Jaguar has found the perfect balance between the grand tourer and nimble sports car ... and at a bargain-basement price that will set the competition on its ear. All Sir William's cars were value-for-money, and XK8 is no different: £47,950 for the coupé between £32,000 and £35,000 cheaper than BMW, Mercedes or Aston Martin rivals offering equivalent performance and equipment.

The XK8 was the most demanding programme yet set for Jaguar by its Ford owner because it had to be delivered from concept to finished car in 30 months. In fact, the engineering team came in three months ahead of schedule a cost saving of about £30 million - and they surpassed every tough target set on quality to make this the best-built Jaguar ever, according to Nick Scheele, Jaguar's chairman. This is a British car that could set Japanese standards for reliability and quality, he says, levels which could never be achieved on the outgoing XJS.

Because XK8 is based on the old-XJS platform, worries ran high that the car would be little more than a revamp of the old barge. The XJS has been Jaguar's bestselling sports car, but it had 20 years of production and, in truth, was as unlovely as a car can get, with more flying buttresses than the average cathedral. Any carryover would have destroyed the XK8's chances. In fact, Dover, XK8's chief engineer, says that the car is 80 per cent new, 10 per cent from the XJ saloons and only about 10 per cent — essentially the platform — from the XJS.

At the heart of the changes is a new power-train which is as much a step forward as anything to have come from Jaguar in its history. Jaguar has had only three generations of engine since 1948, all six and 12-cylinder power-packs. The fourth generation departs radically from history in that it is built outside the company - by Ford in Bridgend though designed entirely in-house - and that it is a V8. which is refined, effortless and



The bonnet diving down to the E-Type style grille is as distinctive a piece of imagery as anything currently on the road. Beneath lies an all-new V8 which proves refined, effortless and powerful

powerful with astonishing acceleration in the mid-range - the place you need it when you want to overtake or pull through tricky uphill bends. Dover reckons the ing team wanted the torque, or pulling power, to feed in as soon as the throttle is pushed and there is no doubt that they got

There is no manual gearchange. because Jaguar says that there is no demand. No wonder, because the new five-speed automatic transmission is so smooth and efficient that changes up or down are barely noticed.

While other carmakers have added sequential semi-automatic gearboxes - so the driver pushes forward to change up and back to go down - as the manual alternative in an auto box, Jaguar has stuck resolutely to its J-gate system. It was the right decision because it is so easy to use, the stick simply pushed from second to third and so on. Unlike a sequential change, the driver always knows what gear the car is in because of the location of the gearstick.



Traditional interior comforts feature a magical sound system

Not that even a run of tough and twisting roads needed much gearchanging on first test, such is the flexibility of the new power-train. Second will take the car up to almost 90mph, the V8 growling gently under the long, fluted bonnet. Even when working the car hard, the ride is stable but with enough feedback through the wheel to allow the driver to feel sports-car responses. Where the

old XJS wallowed, the XK8 springs into action, turning sharply and accurately, the ride always predictable and sure-footed.

Part of that responsiveness comes from a much-improved body and chassis, which is 25 per cent stiffer than the XIS so that there is no flexing of metal through bumps and lumps. Add to that the sort of ride you would expect to feel in a Jaguar and the car becomes

JAGUAR XK8

Engine: 4-litre AJ-V8 developing 290 brake horse power Equipped with traction control.

Performance: 0 to 60mph in 6.4 seconds (6.7 convertible), top speed limited to 156mph (154). Economy: Fuel consumption, 22.9mpg average (23.3

Dimensions: length 4,760mm, width 2,015mm. Weight 2588kg. Equipment: power steering, anti-lock brakes, airbags, remote locking, alarm immobiliser, tilt steering wheel, air conditioning. steering wheel audio controls, 17in alloy wheels. Convertible

has powered foldaway roof. Price: Coupé £47,950; convertible £54,950.

one of the most enjoyable to drive in any price bracket, not least because the company has retained the virtues prized most by its traditional buyers.

Forget criticism you might have read that XK8 is too bulky and too like its distant and also Fordowned cousin, the Aston Martin DB7: I defy anyone to tell me that the XK8 does not look fabulous, particularly as a convertible. The bonnet diving down to the E-Type style grille is as distinctive a piece of imagery as anything currently on the road, as you will discover when you see an XK8 appear in

Inside, the XK8 offers the traditional comforts: wood and tasteful leather, a restful but clear set of dials . . . and one new option which blasts the opposition: a 240-watt, ten-speaker sound system tailored

your rear-view mirror.

to the XKS's acoustics by Harmon Kardon, the American specialists. After a window-rattling session with Messrs Elgar, Saint-Saens and Sting, the system catapulted itself from Jaguar option to a "must have" for me.

That touch of extra magic rarely found among even the most expensive cars — speaks volumes for Jaguar. Other carmakers could produce a valid argument on behalf of the cars competing with the XK8 in an almost overcrowded marketplace. Mercedes could argue for the logic of its engineering. BMW for its reliability. Porsche for its sporting heritage.

But marques rarely appeal to the heart in the way that Jaguar does. The engineering of the XKS is not just the best to have come out of Coventry in the 60 years since the business was founded, but the car is covered in tiny details, touches which make the driver and passenger feel special as soon as they clutch the keys.

Bob Dover's brief said the XK8 had to be "sensuous, instantly desirable, exhilirating and stir emotions". It is and it does.

E-TYPE VXK8

They are soul-sisters, a quarter 1 of a century apart, writes Sue Baker. I drove them minutes apart, and it was a time-warp of familiarity. Stepping out of an XK8 and into a newly restored E-Type underlined striking similarities and unexpected differences.

The new Jaguar is the E-Type for the Nineties, evocatively retro-styled, still a sleek and sultry big cat, but fatter and less feral.

The model that is the XK8's historical benchmark has more front and less behind, with a body dominated by its famously phallic bonnet and encasing a narrower, sparser cabin. But it still manages to rival the newcomer for headroom and beats it for visibility.

The E-Type tested is a Series II. 4.2-litre 2+2 When it was new in 1070 it cost £2,708. It was shared by two brothers who drove it hard and with little concern for its future as a

covetable classic.
When owner Ray Attewell bought it eight years ago for £4,000, it was a rusty non-runner. unused for a decade. It has just emerged from a total restoration. which cost conservatively £25,000, not including hundreds of hours of preparation work by its owner. It is now effectively a 1970s car built in the 1990s, with body panels rustprotected and fitted to a far higher standard than when new.

Driving both cars back-to-back was as much a reminder of how good a car the E-Type was in its day as an endorsement of the XKS's status as E-Type reinvented.

The height of the two cars is similar, but from the inside the XKS feels more encasing. It has a higher waistline and the window area feels smaller, giving the new Jaguar a slightly more claustropho-



Model: Series II fixedhead coupé 2+2. Engine: 4.2 litre. sixcylinder, 265 bhp. Dimensions: wheelbase: 8ft 9in, length: 15ft 4in, width; 5ft 6in. Top speed: i39mph. 0-60: 7.4 secs.

Consumption: avg. 18-20 mpg; touring, 25 mpg. Insurance: £200-£250 on an agreed-value, limitedmileage (3.000 miles annually) classic car policy. Original Price: £2,708.71 Value: £25,000.

bic feeling. That is despite the XK8 having perceptibly more elbow-room, even though its cabin is

conspicuously more sybaritic.
The E-Type feels closer to nature. Its dashboard veneers are unmistakably real wood, and its renovated leather still has the once-lived-in look of real animal skin. In its sports-interior guise, the XK8's a worthy successor.

maple veneers are stained so dark and lacquered so heavily as to be indistinguishable from high-grade plastic, and its leather is perfection.

Where the XK8's ride is a muscular glide, distancing the driver from any physical discomforts from the road surface, the E-Type's is more informative.

Type's is more informative, communicating what is underfoot without relaying much of its harshness. For a sports car built 26 years ago, the ride is remarkably good. Both cars share a similarly mesmeric presence on the road. Wherever I drove it, the XKS's

svelte, sensuous shape swivelled heads in its wake. But they were being turned more by its novelty. days ahead of its official release.

The E-Type commanded just as

much attention. But no novelty here - it was simply in warm admiration of an unarguably, dramatically beautiful car. If an XKS driving past in the year 2022 still earns as many second looks as a renovated E-Type does

today, only then can it truly pass as

DB7 VXK8



Gorgeous looks, but at a price

Model: Aston Martin DB7 3.2 Engine: supercharged in-line 335bhp six-cylinder. 0-60: 5.7 secs. Top speed: 165mph. ensions: length; 4,646mm, width 1,830mm.
Price: Coupé; £82,500, convertible £89,950

The similarity between the Aston Martin DB7 and the XK8 could be too close for comfort — for Aston, anyway. Those curved DB7 haunches and long overhangs tell the story of its heritage, cloned from the Jaguar XJS platform and with a straight-six super-charged 3.2-litre developed from a

Jaguar race engine.
Performance figures are roughly similar, and, of course, an Aston is strong on traditional wood and leather like the Jag. But it would be too simple to say the cars are the same. The power characteristics are very different and the Aston feels tauter and somehow smaller than the XKS, even though the dimensions are similar.

Being part of the same Ford family should not be a problem, although the XK8's value for money could be trying for Aston. Look for some Aston derivatives soon to try to catch the eye.

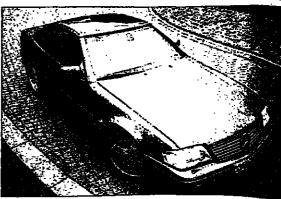
MERCEDES 500SL V XK8

ext to an XK8, Mercedes' SL looks expensive, fat ... and damned ugly. The years have not been kind to the SL, and with every passing birthday, it looks more and more like the starlet who piled on the pounds and sprinted past her sell-by

The SL looked a stunner at launch - but then there was barely anything else on the road to compare it with apart from the XJS, which was already so old it made the SL look positively anorexic and feel as nimble as George Best in his heyday.

Now Best would be hardpressed to run a traffic light, never mind a full ninety minutes, while Mercedes answered the competition by loading more into the SL: bigger engines, more gadgets, more everything, except for a stereo fitted as

standard. The result in the SL500, which offers almost similar performance to an XKS, is of a bloated, muscle-bound motor - like being lugged by one of the Gladiators rather than wafted and beguiled. Acceleration is bludgeoning, but the sound feedback from the Merc's V8 is industrial rather than seductive. However, the handling is as safe and sound as you would expect from a Mercedes, huge rear tyres spreading themselves all over the road seemingly defying the gods to overcome their sticking power and the traction con-



By comparison, it's both overweight and overpriced

Model: Mercedes SL500. Engine: 5-litre, 32-valve V8 developing 326bhp through five-speed automatic transmission driving rear

Top speed: 155mph (electronically limited). Consumption: 17.7mpg in town.

Dimensions: length 4,470mm, width 1,812mm. Price: £80,700 basic

trol system to trick it into a flurry of wheelspin.

The interior of the car is about as welcoming as a prison cell. Mercedes gives you plenty of leather but the instrument dial remains functional to the point of monochrome boredom, the steering wheel apparently comes straight from the deck of a leather-bound yacht and the automatic gearbox is too notchy and twiddly for rapid use for all but the extremely well practised. Of course, there is more equipment

than even Nasa could use on

a busy day, but that does not make the model more loveable. In fact, the SL = a Car born in the 1980s when big was better — looks forlorn in the Nineties when swooping shapes and curves are in come and when he item. vogue and when its little sister, the SLK, looks cure

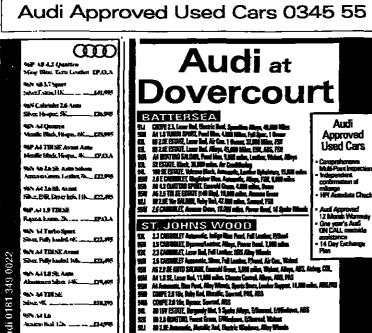
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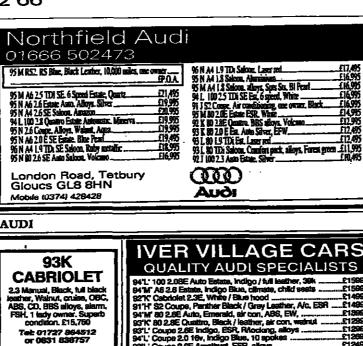
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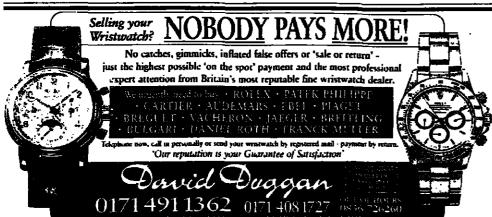
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ROADTEST Ford's subtle rocket

ou expect a car like the Mondeo 24-valve to come with at least one set of go-faster stripes and a rear wing about the size of Concorde's, writes Kevin Eason. But there is nothing. just a discreet side-badge which says 24v, and some

entertainingly large tyres. The 25-litre V6 engine has torque and rasping power that will leave many a sports car gasping. Power is fed in so low down in the engine revs. the car is wonderfully driveable at all speeds. In fact, the package is so good, I wonder why so many people spend so much on cars which might have more prestigious badges.

The 24v is the top of the Mondeo range, which has now been revamped. We have only been able to test the star



Wide wheels and subtle badging apart, Ford's new Mondeo does little to advertise its status as a sports-car beater

of the line-up, so we will bring news later of the rest.

Fifteen-inch wheels are fitted to most of the 2.5-litre models, with 16-inchers on the sports ST-24. Inside, there is wood and leather if you want it I prefer to do without both. Depending where you enter the 24v range, there is air conditioning in a cabin which is both ergonomic and welcoming, and enhanced by one of the new-generation Ford sound systems which has large-format buttons Where the 24v becomes a competitor to BMW or Mercedes is under the bonnet; the 2.5-litre Duratec is a revelation, with a wide powerband making overtaking easy. Just slipping the Mondeo 24v into second or third is enough to get full torque low down, so when you floor the throttle, the car is away immediately.

BMW and Mercedes drivers might think they have more cachet in their cars, but I guarantee that motorists who enjoy driving would not walk away from a Mondeo 24v after a test. It really is that good.



Engine: 2.5-litre, 24-valve six cylinder laid out in V format, producing 169 brake horse power through fivespeed manual gearbox driving front wheels.

FORD MONDEO 24V

Performance: 0 to 60mph in eight seconds, top speed 139mph; fuel consumption, 28 miles to the gallon on average, 20.8mpg in town.

Equipment: 16in wheels, rear spoiler, sports seats, rear centre armrest, three-point centre seatbelt, remote steeringcolumn control for stereo, powered front windows. Powered tilt-and-slide sunroof, alarm and immobiliser with remote central locking.

Price: To be announced next month



The S40 will be prepared by Damon Hill's new boss

It's another exciting Volvo

THE VOLVO \$50, which has become such a familiar star on touring-car racetracks is to give way to a racing version of the stylish new S40 model, writes Alan Copps. The 850, in the hands of Swedish driver Rickard Rydell, won four races in the British Touring Car Championship this year to give him third place in the drivers' contest and Volvo third place in the manufacturers' title. Frank Biela and Audi won the two championships.

■ THE RACING 850 has been a key element in the company's succesful campaign to transform its image from supplier of staid estates to creator of exciting road cars. Like the 850, the racing version of the highly-praised S40 will be prepared at Linfield in Oxforshire by Tom Walkinshaw, the racing specialist who also owns the Arrows Formula One team and has just become Damon Hill's new boss.

Trestige German saloons and a fun-loving two-seat open-top sportster are this week's used-car stars, says price experts CAP Black Vaughan Freeman Book, writes.

Showing strongest used prices is the BMW 3-Series of 1992-95. High-mileage examples especially (60,000 to 100,000 miles) are doing best, with a 1993 L-reg 318i SE fetching £10-11.000. A must for buyer or seller is a full service history stuffed with BMW stamps. Metallic paint is another feature which will ensure a strong resale value.

Another German fetching good prices is the Mercedes-Benz E-Class. A 1995 E230 Elegance on 10,000 miles will fetch £29,995 retail, and desperate dealers will buy practically anything, regardless of colour or equipment.

Mazda's cute MX-5, despite the onset of autumn, is enjoy-

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ing a boom, ironically fuelled by the arrival of the Rover MGF. Every magazine report on the Rover car invariably refers, flatteringly, to its MX-5 rival. A 1992-93 car, costing £18.500 when new, will sell for £13.000, with the Special Edition leather, wood and carpeted versions, most sought after. Not doing so well is the

Honda Shuttle people carrier. Despite top-class reliability and build quality, the Shuttle simply is not popular, largely because its high new price of around £24.000 is reflected in used values.Only used examples at under £20,000, such as the 1995 2.2-litre Shuttle on 10,000 miles for £18,000, are likely to find customers.

The Ford Escort Cosworth is as hot in the market as it is on the road. Seen by many as a future classic car, high retail prices are being fetched by examples that have a full service history. Sadly, there are few around in pristine condition. Long top of the thiel's hit list, many have been recovered damaged after being stolen or, having proved too potent for their owner, repaired after an accident. A good-condition 1995 M-registered car with leather upholstery, low mileage and FSH, should fetch £24,000.

SPARE PARTS

History sold and shown

■ CHRYSLER Jeep is going back to its roots by unveiling an all-new Jeep Wrangler at the Birmingham motor show later this month, writes Alan Copps. The Wrangler, ultimate successor to the Second World War general-purpose vehicle that gave the world the word "jeep", has been com-pletely updated for a new right-hand drive version.

Other new vehicles include, for the first time in Britain, the Chrysler Voyager, claimed to be the world's first peoplecarrier, which has sold seven million worldwide since its launch in 1984.



New Jeep set for Britain

RACE overalls worn by three-times world champion Jackie Stewart in the 1971 Monaco Grand Prix, sold for £22,425 (against an estimate of £1,800) at Brooks's Formula One sale in London last Monday. Stirling Moss's first white race helmet fetched £20,450.



High price for GP jacket

■ THE TWIN centenaries of the British motor industry and cinema are being celebrated at a specially created venue, the Ultimate Drive-In at Centenary Square, Birmingham. Kevin Costner's golfing movie The Tin Cup has its premiere on October 13.



Vauchall's big car, the Omega replaced the Cariton and Senator which had earned their spurs as high-mileage motorway workhorses with police forces nationwide. Launched in 1994, the Omega four-door saloon and five-door estate range has endless engine options, from the 2-litre eight and 16-valve, to 2.5 and 3-litre V6, and the 2.5-litre turbodiesel, sourced from BMW.



As the emissions element of the MoT

Inside the car has earned some uphoistery are as healthy looking as the rest of the car should be

gets ever more stringent, check that the car's catalytic converter is in perfect condition. For early cars

especially, under-car knocks and bumps could have rendered the

INSURANCE



SAFETY RATING A driver side airbag is standard equipme on the Omega range, as is anti-lock braking and three-point seatbelts for all three rear seal passengers, and there are dual airbags on the CD and CDX models. Big cars are generally safer and this is no

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A 1994 2-litre Omega
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(Prices include VAT); clutch assembly £150; full exhaust £275; catalytic converter £225; rear damper (pair) £110; front brakepads (pair) £80; alternator (exchange) £250; gearbox £1,500; tyre £60-75.

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Top cook's recipe for greens

STEERING COLUMN

lare Latimer, best known as the Downing Street chef, has cooked for most of the Tory ministers gathered in Bournemouth this weekend for the last party confer-ence before the General Election. In 1993 she became famous for not having an affair with John

Major, winning libel damages from New Statesman and Society. Latimer still creates culinary masterpieces for John and Norma Major, is employed by Conserva-tive Central Office, and provides the food at 11 and 12 Downing Street, as well as the grander Foreign Office parties. She was brought up in a theatrical family, and launches her third culinary

book, next month. Surprisingly, perhaps, Clare hates talking about politics. "It is very personal and gets heated. People imagine I know a lot because I work in Downing Street so frequently.

guide, The Comfort Food Cook-

How did you first learn to drive?

I was fucky enough to spend most of my childhood on a farm with a one-mile drive. It meant that I could learn when I was only 13. I passed my driving test within weeks of turning 17. My independence started from that moment.

What was your first car?

I bought a pale grey Mini for £200. I decided to make it different by painting the roof primrose. I did this near the farm animals. Within half-an-hour the roof looked like one of those flying

What car do you drive now and why?

A Tovota Celica I have had ten years. I wish I could find a replacement but nothing is right.

Do you like driving?

Yes, except in London. Beyond the M25, driving is my hobby but in London I try to walk or cycle.



Clare Latimer with Toyota Celica and Tansy, her collie-cross who leaves an unfortunate coat of hair for front-seat passengers

What is your dream car?

For the last 30 years it has been an Aston Martin convertible. Christmas is coming up if anyone needs help with my present.

What is your most hated car?

Any which belches out filthy exhaust furnes. The driver should be fined on the spot and made, as a nunishment, to ride a bicycle for a year to see what the fumes taste

What is your worst habit in the

I keep letting Tansy, my colliecross dog, sit in the front seat. When smartly dressed friends ask

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for a lift my heart sinks. They always get out of the car with a fur coat on their backs, but as it is behind them I say nothing.

What infuriates you most about other drivers? Many things, as the roads are too

and out of the traffic and the cars that overtake on the left. What is the most unusual thing

crowded, but the worst are the

messenger bikes that weave in

you have done in your car? About ten years ago, when I was working as weekend chef to the Lola Formula 3000 motor racing team, I was unleashed on the

Renault Fuego round twice. It was great experience and even revive my sense of humour. though I was going half the speed

Have you ever had points on your licence?

of the racing cars it felt terrifying.

Yes. About 20 years ago I was stopped on the M5 on the way to Cornwall and was caught doing 92mph. I am rather proud today of managing such a speed so long ago. It is the only time so far I have been booked, fingers crossed.

What do you listen to in the car?

Classic FM when I need calming down, Fleetwood Mac's Formula One theme tune, Break the Chain, when I need revving up, or Nelly

the Elephant when I need to

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing

Abolish car tax and add a few pence on the price of petrol. Cars would have to show their insurance certificate on the windscreen.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

So many of them say nothing about the car. How many of us drive round mountains all day, through burning fields, into the sitting room to watch telly, or cut our clothes into rags? What are they trying to say?

DR DASHBOARD

Buy your own meals on wheels

- Amazing what you find in your car. I pushed a little button on my dashboard the other day and these little cupholder thingies popped out. What are they for?
- A For your leisure revolution, of course. You probably haven't realised it, but the carmakers say that you didn't just buy your hatchback to pick up the kids from school or go to the shops. You really want to exploit what Ford calls your "attitudinal mindset" so that your car meets your lifestyle demands. So your car gets a cupholder.
- Eh? Is any of this supposed to make sense. I suspect you keep supplies of medicinal gin in your cupholder, don't you?
- Don't be ridiculous, I would never drink and drive - it's hard enough to drink and walk. No, the carmakers spend a lot of time worrying about these tiny details. spending millions of pounds deciding where to put a cupholder so you don't spill your refreshing cola: the new Renault Scenic, tested elsewhere in this esteemed journal, has six cupholders and two in-flight food trays.
- So I could throw a dinner party picnic in the back of the car a sort of Nineties-style meals-on-wheels affair.
- A I do the jokes in this column! However, you are not so far from the truth there. Two Americans suggested a few years ago drivers could cook entire meals by wrapping food in tin foil and placing it on the engine.
- Astonishing, row uses a second casy to cook anything from gourmet the bonnet? meals to TV dinners under the bonnet?
- A I suppose you put your food on the manifold, set off for a spot on the map and cook at gas mark 70mph. By the way, this is one time you can't cook electric because a battery car will not generate enough heat, so you can't be environmentally iriendly and hungry at the same time, for this idea.
- You really are no help for a doctor, are you? Is there any useful advice you can give to Britain's motorists on this subject?
- Actually, yes. Those Americans wrote a Actually, yes. Hose Carling - The book called Manifold Destiny - The One! The Only! Guide to Cooking on Your Car Engine. Your chances of buying it here are slim unless you order from a specialist bookshop. It was published by Villard Books in the USA. But if you're hungry, you can join me in the pub for egg and chips if you like. Bring your own cupholders though.

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Emissions impossible?

Smart cats are set to become the

heart of tomorrow's green engines

car will need not just gets to check that the catalyst is working correctly and warn the driver if anything goes vrong with it.

Converters may have contributed to reducing pollution so far, but in the second wave of controls on emissions, already drawn up in California for introduction in 1997 and due to become mandatory in Europe in 2000, the demands laced on them will be much

There are two problems with converters in their pieces of equipment slung vulnerably beneath the car and therefore easily damaged: and they take some minutes to warm up and become fully effective. Some critics claim this makes them virtually useless on short urban journeys.

At present a 40-second delay

is allowed between start-up and the collection of exhaust gases to check the efficiency of converter. Under the new rules, converters will be required to operate immediately and they will also have to be constantly monitored so drivers can be warned immediately if they lose effectiveness.

The technology to meet these demands already exists. It featured among a number of developments - which can be expected to appear in production cars very soon — demon-strated by Delphi Automotive Systems, the world's largest supplier of car components and part of the General Mopresent form: they are delicate tors empire, at its first European Ride and Drive day at the French motor industry's Mortefontaine test track.

One of the more surprising vehicles to find at such an event was a Lotus Esprit V8. But this product of Norfolk is one of the vehicles on the road which already meets the emission standards for 2000, dem-



Lotus's Esprit V8 already meets stringent 21st-century exhaust laws. But dull it isn't

environmentally friendly car does not have to be a dull passenger transport.

When Lotus set about designing its all-new engine, it built in features that would allow the exhaust system to be adapted to meet not only the emission standards but also the demands for monitoring. known by the clumsy acronym

onstrating conclusively that an of EOBD — European On- demonstrate, convincingly in Board-Diagnostics. The V8 uses a number of Delphi components, chiefly a valve which recirculates exhaust gas into the engine intake, increasing fuel economy and reducing nitrogen oxide emissions. It also has Multec fuel injectors designed to meet highperformance requirements. The Lotus was there to

the hands of its test driver, that such improvements can be made without damaging its sensational performance. But the means of doing this were more easily discernible aboard an Opel Astra fitted with a full version of the emissions and monitoring system.

The first part of the problem was tackled by fitting a small

CLEAN-AIR SOLUTIONS

The system above includes a fuel tank (black, centre right) with evaporation control. The inlet flow (yellow) includes an air-assisted fuel injector, while oxyger sensors monitor the exhaust (red) and heated catalytic converter (orange).

warm-up converter next to the exhaust manifold under the bonnet, where it reaches the right working temperature immediately. When the engine is started a valve opens and directs the exhaust through this converter until the main one has reached working temperature. A by-pass valve then closes off the warm-up

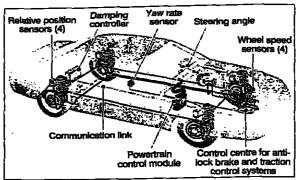
The main converter also has oxygen sensors at each end to monitor its efficiency, and another sensor to detect any engine misfiring. These sensors are connected to the engine management unit. So. for example, if the oxygen sensor at the rear of the converter detects an excess of unburnt hydrocarbons, indicating that the fuel mixture is

too rich, it can instantly restrict flow through the injection system to correct the balance and achieve a "clean burning" mixture. If such corrective action fails it illuminates a dashboard warning light to show the driver he has a faulty catalyst.

n extra device was fitted to the Astra which enabled the Lengineer in the passenger seat to induce a misfire. A 2 per cent misfire introduced during normal driving was barely perceptible, yet it produced a 50 per cent increase in emissions, illustrating the value of monitoring.

But it is not just the air outside the car that the Delphi engineers have been con-

INTELLIGENT CHASSIS CONTROL Anti-spin gives more than an even brake in a crisis



The system uses many existing car components

won't spin the car completely because I'm going to be doing this demonstration all day and I don't want to wreck the tyres," said my driver as he set off to demonstrate the virtues of Traxxar, Delphi's intelligent chassis control system", which is designed to enhance safety in all

We were heading across the asphalt acres of Mortefontaine at about 50mph. A few seconds later he wrenched the steering wheel violently to the right simulating an attempt to avoid a collision. In a splitsecond of screaming, smoking rubber the Saab 9000 pirouetted through a full

360 degrees. "Now, that was with the system switched off. It will help show you the contrast." he laughed. With the system on, we approached a row of cones across. He wrenched the wheel to the right: Yes, the car lurched; the tyres squealed, the brakes were firmly on. But he completed the manouevre keeping full control and the car emerged

steady and straight. Traxxar is already in use in the United States and is expected in Europe very soon. It is one of a series of safety measures that can be introduced using many existing components on a car. For example, it uses the same set of sensors as an anti-lock braking system.

The version fitted to the Saab worked by comparing the yaw rate of the car (the way in which it sways about its centre of gravity) with the driver's movement of the steering wheel. It then varies the selectively apply individual brakes to maintain maxi-

mum stability. For example, if a driver is accelerating into a left-hand turn, the system might apply the left front brake to maintain a stable direction. and reduce power. It can be tuned to take account of a car's intended performance. so it might allow more leeway in a sports car than in a family saloon.

cerned with keeping clean. Another demonstration car. with air conditioning, was fitted with a pollution sensor mounted against the cabin air inlet. If it registered heavily polluted air, for example if the car was following a smoky lorry, it closed the inlet and automatically switched the unit to recirculate the air already in the cabin. It also had a warning light to indicate when the pollen filter was exhausted. Such a system has already been installed on some

When the peak of pollution is past, the unit opens the inlet to ensure a renewed supply of fresh air, something which many drivers who take the same precaution manually find it all too easy to forget.

Win a day on the track worth £165

Everyman Motor Racing at Mallory Park. offers readers the chance to test their driving skills with a prize worth £165.

The winner can choose from a wide range of driving activities, including racing cars, rally cars, off-road cars, plus he or she can tackle a tank and military vehicles. Two runners-up receive a pair of tickets to any race meeting of their choice - and there are 40 to choose from - at Mallory Park, Leicestershire.

All you have to do to enter is call our competition hotline 0891-40 50 06 with your answer to the following question:

Who won the 1996 Portuguese Grand Prix? The winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight on Wednesday October 9, 1996.

 Catherine Brown, of London, won the test drive competition of September 21.

If you would like to enjoy a day out at Mallory Park, call 01455 841 670 for information.



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David Rokov from Bracknell, Berkshire, heads our leaderboard in the race for our £10,000 jackpot after the performance of his team, Richie's Terrors, in the Portuguese Grand Prix at Estoril. Mr Rokov has a total of 7.970 points with one race to go at Suzuka, Japan, on October 13. Below are the top 18 positions after the 14 races in our competition. The Australian Grand Prix does not count in our game.

FI FANTASY DRIVE LEADERBOARD AFTER 14 RACES 01 7,970 RKV16 D Rokov

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one call is allowed in the transfer period. More than one call will invalidate your transfers. Transfers must result in a team comprising one driver from each of the eight groups.

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Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0501). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call. The line currently carries all positions after the Portuguese Grand Prix and will be updated again on Wednesday October 16.

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0891 calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other time:

FANTASY LEAGUE UPDATE

Stars thrash home

WHILE ALL eyes will be on the title struggle between Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve at the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka next weekend, one man in the BBC commentary box will be more confident of victory than either of the Williams drivers.

racers

in the CAR 96 Formula One Fantasy Drive Celebrity Team League, Jonathan Palmer enters the final race with an almost unassailable lead of 117 points over his nearest rival Nick Mason of Pink Floyd. If there's anything to be learned from this exercise it seems that a certain amount of track-craft counts. Palmer obviously learned his during a ten-year Formula One career, and rock drummer Mason regularly drives in historic races. Meanwhile, third place is held by Stirling Moss.

The Palmer Promosport team of Hill, Villeneuve, Hakkinen, Barrichello, Salo, Panis, Rosset and Badoer has been among the front runners all season and now has an impressive 7.798 points, which would put it around 20th in

the overall contest. Unfortunately Palmer's prize is unlikely to match the £10,000 jackpot on offer to our main winner. Mason's Ten Tenths team has the same drivers in

every category except for World Champion Michael Schumacher in place of Damon Hill, and has accumulated 7,681 points.

The Stirling Moss Auto-mobile Racing Team of Hill, Villeneuve, Hakkinen, Brundle, Salo, Panis, Rosset and Montermini is on 7,469. Since the maximum points scored by any driver in any race has rarely exceeded 120, and because the leading teams are so



taken a significant lead

similar the chance of these positions changing seems slim. The rest of our contestants in order are: Louise Aitken Walker, 7,441 points: Sir David Steel, 7,217; Tess Stimson. 6,949; Chris Rea, 6,923; Carol Vorderman, 6,901; Lord March, 6.234 and, gentlemanly as always and allowing our distinguished guests to go ahead, Team Car 96 (Kevin Eason and Alan Copps) on 6,068 points.

Perhaps Damon Hill might take some comfort from the fact that the team at the bottom of that list was the only one to select at the beginning of the season Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the German driver who is to supplant him at Williams next season.

GT RACING COMPETITION

Win Silverstone tickets



The hard and fast Privilege Insurance GT races feature close cousins of road cars John Morrison. But the

ne of the most exciting and spectacular forms of motor sport; GT racing, has made worldwide comeback in the past few seasons, and next Saturday sees the final round of the British Championship at Silverstone. Today, CAR 96, in association with Privilege Insurance, sponsors of the eight-race chance to win ten pairs of VIP race tickets. The Privilege GT champ-

ionship is the compact version of Le Mans racing. It features not only the big guns of McLaren, Porsche and Jaguar but a whole host of British specialist manufacturers such as Marcos. TVR and Harrier. Its class structure was changed this year to fall in line with the famous French 24-hour race and the Global GT series.

The British races have been dominated by the 600bhp McLaren FI GTR of lan Flux and Jake Ulrich who have a commanding lead in the championship after winning a series of duels with the Porsche 993 GTI of John Greasley and

McLaren team has also experienced some stirring battles against surprising opposition. The Marcos LM500 of Cor Euser and Thomas Erdos, which won the first race at Silverstone in March, has twice beaten the mighty Fl and there have also been overall victories for Win Percy in the Harrier LR9C, Frenchman Marc Sourd in a Renault Spider V6 and the TVR Cerbera of Mark Hales and Phil Andrews. The Marcos LM600 of Schirle and Warnock leads the Class

Two championship. The attraction of this class of racing is that most of the cars are closely related to roadgoing versions, and the close racing on tight circuits makes a dramatic spectacle. Each 45-minute race must include one pit stop for a driver change. The series this year has attracted coverage from Sky Sports and Eurosport, and Privilege is

planning to continue its sponsorship next season. Jim Wallace, Marketing Director for Privilege, says: This series is the perfect fit for us. Privilege specialises in providing affordable premiums to drivers who traditionally find insurance either difficult or expensive to arrange." Those include drivers of sports, high performance or luxury cars, the young and those with a bad driving record.

The prizes are ten pairs of tickets to the Silverstone race on October 13, to include a three-course lunch and hospitality in the Jimmy Brown suite which overlooks the pit lane and will include access to the pits.

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Hunt is on for the best tow-job

tyres rent the air. One car was hurtling through a tight series of bends. Another was powering round a steep banked curve into a fast straight stretch of Tarmac.

The location was a test track, and cars were being put punishingly through their paces. What was unusual about this particular test session was that in the wake of every hard-driven car was a caravan. The vehicles undergoing rigorous assessment were contenders for the Caravan Club's Towcar of the Year awards, being judged by a heavy-footed panel of drivers.

The annual awards decide which cars new on the market in the past year deserve accolades as best suited to the controversial task of lugging caravans about the country. The Caravan Club has been running the competition for 14 years for the enlightenment of its

285,000 members. The judging is performed over two days at a Surrey test track every September, in preparation for an awards ceremony in London during October. This year, 39 cars from 19 manufacturers were vying for trophies. I drove them all. I am

Admitting to the fact requires a thick skin and a modicum of cars for their proficiency at towing caravans is akin to admitting to being Jeremy Clarkson's hairdresser, or a Val Doonican fan, or

someone who irons their jeans. For caravanners, derision is a familiar experience. But I make no apology for my involvement in the towcar competition. As an exercise in car assessment, it is both rewarding and revealing, on sev-

Driving a car with a caravan hooked up behind magnifies its inherent characteristics. A car which tows well has a fundamental engineering integrity, thus indicat-ing a tendency to behave creditably in most other situations.

Equally, few mechanical or behavioural flaws escape scrutiny when a lump weighing nearly as much again as the car towing it is being hauled along behind, especially when the car is being driven as energetically as typically happens during towcar judging.
There's the rub. The soundly

competent behaviour of most properly matched, modern car-trailer rigs when being driven at an unusually pressurised pace is telling. It shows that there is no cause for caravans to be driven like the lumbering mobile chicanes which anecdotally hinder and infuriate

holiday season.

The tests each competing car undergoes are extensive. They are assessed for their acceleration from a standing start and between 30 and 60mph, the overtaking zone; for stability at speed; for their clean pull-away from a steep hill-start and the ability of the handbrake to hold the rig on the same slope.

Traction, gearbox suitability, brakes, handling and manoeuvring, driver ergonomics, operating costs and value for money within a price class are all judged in a total of 11 categories with up to 21 points awarded by each judge in

each category.

Cars are also assessed for their practical suitability for caravanning, such as access to the boot when hitched, and whether commonly used equipment can be stowed upright inside the car. To put the cars being judged for the towcar awards on an even playing field, all the caravans used in the tests are ballasted to bring their weight to precisely 85 per cent of that of the car under test.

The car's tyre pressures are increased in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendation for towing, and concrete blocks are placed in the front footwell to represent a passenger's weight.



Sue Baker: a proud towcar judge, despite the derision heaped upon caravanners, as the rigorous tests can expose any car's flaws

Towcar judges drive alone, but few

caravanners do. Caravamers may be the continual butt of mirth, but judging the towcar awards is no joke. It is as scientific as the organisers can make it, and the results pay tribute to the integrity of the winning cars.

One of the reasons underlying caravanning's slightly tainted reputation may well be the inexperience of some people new to towing,

who try to pull oversized vans with undersized cars. Another may be due to those who take to the road without having mastered the backto-front art of reversing a towed rig.

There is no excuse for caravanners to be a pain in the back lanes and an irritation to other road users. The Caravan Club runs courses to guide novices through the more demanding intricacies of caravan management, towing and

manoeuvring. They are invaluable for anyone who wants to start towing from scratch, or whose skills are frankly rusty and need brushing up.

This year's towcar results will be revealed in mid-October. The winners are the ones that towed unflinchingly despite brutal treat-ment on widely varied terrain, that didn't stumble, stall or overheat the clutch on a steep hillstart, and that

endeared themselves for generally good, safe, efficient behaviour.

They are an elite bunch of cars whose success in the awards will be trumpeted by car manufacturers. There are an estimated 500,000 trailer caravans in Britain, and they all need towcars.

■ The Caravan Club. East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 IUA. Tel 01342 326944

Helen Mound meets Renault's family activity vehicle

t was like watching Paul Daniels do his stuff with a magic hat; the Renault PR man kept pulling bicycles, toys and bottles from the new Scenic, demonstrating the car's numerous pockets and hideyholes. The resulting pile of one family's paraphernalia from one Scenic would have been enough to stock a small

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toyshop. The new Scenic is the latest in Renault's six-car Megane range, the hatchhack and coupe were launched in April this year, the saloon is out next year, the cabriolet the following year and the estate in 1998.

But this is the answer to the prayers of any family driver who never has enough storage space in the car. It's best described as an automotive activity centre; just discovering all the cubbyholes and drinks holders is an adventure in itself. If Fisher Price turned it's hand to car production this could well be the result.

Renault is looking to create yet another sector in the European market with the Scenic, as it did with the Espace in 1984. But Renault UK marketing director Phil Horton insists that the new car

Car that wants to come out to play

is not just a miniaturised MPV. "We don't consider the Scenic a niche product to be sold to the adventurous few. A car with so many attributes will not be a niche vehicle, it will appeal to mainstream customers, it's a realistic after native to a family hatchback."

To get away from the image of miniature-MPV, Renault rather appropriately refers to the Scenic as an "activity car". Horton argues: "We see this as potentially the biggest change in the UK marketplace since the launch of the hatchback in

That is not the only bold remark that Renault UK is making about the new Scenic either. Despite the fact that the company refuses to talk sales figures or market shares, it sees the activity car as a "volume opportunity" and expects it to be the second best-

achieve high sales is with competitive pricing. Horton points out the average price of a car in the UK is £13,200, and the average price of an MPV is a steep £19,200. He says that the type of motorist that Re-nault is looking to attract will be reflected in the pricing of

estate car or MPV drivers, we want to convince hatchback drivers this is the car they need." A top luxury-equipped Scenic is estima around £15,000. The customer profile he is

without children." That just about covers everybody. Renault is the doyen of what is known as "monospace"

selling Megane. One way it claims that it will

"We're not looking to attract And if the new Scenic is

aiming for is also bold: "All age-groups, one-car families, singles and couples with and next year.

vehicles; cars with a single



The Scenic, below right, is the latest Megane, and is intended to create its own market

interior space. As well as the highly popular Espace (which is about to show a new face), Renault also sells the diminutive Twingo in France.

creating a whole new market for activity vehicles, the new vace looks set to take the MPV market to new heights. Unveiled this week at the Paris Motor Show, Renault's new Espace is a highly futuristic-looking vehicle that is scheduled to go on sale in Britain

Renault chairman Louis Schweitzer happily points out that the company is planning to create and dominate a new market with the Scenic, as it did with the Espace: "Soon. almost every manufacturer will have a mid-range monospace, but for the next two years at least. Scenic will have no rivals in Europe."

The Scenic may look a very different car, but anyone who's ever driven an Espace is going to feel at home in a Scenic. The new car has the high seat and right-angled driving position of the original MPV, which can be tiring on the knees and ankles.

Despite concerted attempts to make the Scenic as car-like as possible. Renault still hasn't achieved the more laid-back. legs-stretched-out driving position most motorists favour. Nevertheless, the pedals are light, the seats supportive, the steering precise and the gearchange reasonably slick. on there's little else driver out.

Best of all, the Scenic has a more familiar dashboard. having come straight from the Megane hatchback; it doesn't have the vast expanse of plastic that spreads out in front of the driver and front passenger in most MPVs. The difference between the

SCENIC

Range: 1.6-litre (90 brake horse power); 2litre (USbhp) and 1.9-litre turbodiesel (95bhp).

Performance: 1.6; top speed 106mph, fuel consumption 31.7mpg driving in town, 35.8mpg at constant 75mph; 2litre 115mph, fuel 26.4mpg driving in town, 31.7mpg at 75mph; diesel, 108mph, fuel 36.7mpg driving in town. 40.9mpg at 75mph.

Estimated price: £15.000

Multispace.

Available: February next year. Rivals: Toyota Picnic. Citroën Berlingo

Scenic and an ordinary hatchback is its extensive interior space and convenient features such as underfloor storage compartments; interchangeable rear seats; a parcel shelf that can take the weight of a large aquarium; and the mix-

and-match coloured seats (al-

though Renault UK is still

deciding whether it is to include those).

In total, its features comprise: 12 pockets, six storage compartments (three of them underfloor), two flight trays on the back of rear seats, six drinks holders, and three individual removable rear seats with adjustable legroom.

There are also two bottle holders, a map-reading light and a 120-watt power socket under the rear seats. The centre rear seat can be turned into a table or replaced with a chill box, and with centre seat removed, the outer rear seats can be moved to

allow for more elbow room.

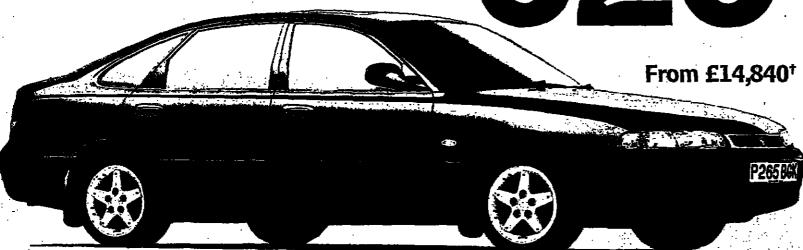
The rear parcel shelf has two height positions, and can also be placed flat on the boot floor. The difference between the Scenic and an Espace is its smaller exterior dimensions. Renault has virtually maintained the length and width of the Megane hatchback, but increased the height by 18cms. The Scenic has the headroom and high seat position of an MPV, but it carries five passengers instead of seven, and

a mid-range car. Surely all of that adds up to miniaturised-MPV? But please don't tell Renault UK I

fits the same parking space as

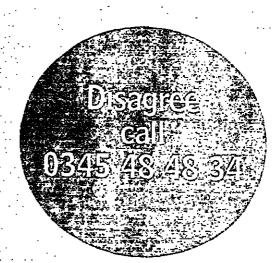
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BOOKS

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Questions still unanswered: Lee Harvey Oswald (1963)

OSWALD'S TALE By Norman Mailer Abacus, £12.99 ISBN 0 349 10781 9 WHAT WAS Lee Harvey Oswald really like? Among all the conspiracy theories

around Kennedy's death, scant attention has been paid to the personality of the man accused of firing those highvelocity bullets. Alleged by some to have been part of the CIA, FBI, Mob, KGB, Cuban Intelligence or any other agency you care to mention, there is no conclusive evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald was anything but, in Mailer's phrase, "an overambitious yet henpecked husband, with an unbalanced psyche, a vein of brutality towards his wife, and that was the sad sum of him." Mailer has compiled a

work that is by any stan-dards extraordinary for its tenacity. empathy and imagination. It follows Oswald through the US Marines, his expatriate years under KGB surveillance in Russia, his marriage to Ma-rina in Minsk, his return to America and the confused events leading to his fatal appointment with history on November 22, 1963. The research of this documentary novel is daunting, using interviews with Oswald's family, reports from the KGB, the Warren report and Lee's own letters to create a portrait of an ambitious and deceitful man. Finally Oswald remains an enigma but that's the way Mailer likes him. Much more than a novel, an epic and penetrating investigation.

PRIMARY COLORS

ANONYMOUS is such no

more, having recently been

outed as New York colum-

nist Jo Klein. The literary

trick that has made him at

least \$6 million the richer is

over. But this does not mean

that Klein's excellent and

thirdy disguised satire on

Bill Clinton's 1992 Presiden-

tial campaign should no

longer be read. Hilarious

characters, witty jargon and a lively pace combine to give

the reader a privileged insid-

er's view of the campaign

trail, as the crazed and

sordid goings-on are wit-

the candidate's number two

A POLICEMAN rescues a

woman who suffers a beating at the hands of her

over looming bankruptcy.

through generations. Glue-

ing these snapshots together,

Mamet creates a picture of a

New England village from a

sum of its parts. This is his

first novel and his style

reveals a delicate touch as he

captures the fractured ver-

nacular and implicit under-

standing of a rural community with intimate and

Penny Perrick

IMPOSSIBLE

THINGS

By Penny Perrick Black Swan, £6.99

ISBN 0 552 99693 9

She is Dior, She embarks on

a passionate love affair with

a politician and through him

like us she has enjoyed a

scented passage.

warm precision.

THE VILLAGE
By David Mamei

ISBN 0571173136

Faher F6.99

By Anonymous

Vintage, £6.99

0 09 974361 2

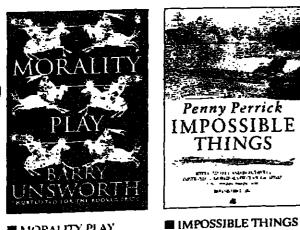


MILLENNIUM A History of Our Last Thousand Years By Felipe Fernandez-Armesto

Black Swan £14.99 ISBN 0 552 99482 0 THOUGH sometimes gnomic and often prolix, this is an astonishing book. The author's learning is enormous and his scope immense. He looks not only back, but forwards, and enlivens both with a perspective that refuses to be centred on the West. The result is not only huge history but a cornucopia of the curious. We have kings and queens, but also King Kong: Karl Marx, but also Groucho Marx, and human behaviour as observed amongst the Wolof of the Senegambia. How are we to understand a world in which accountants in Surbiton cook in woks and sleep on

futons? Begin with this book. ■ THE MISSING By Andrew O'Hagan Picador, £5.99 ISBN 0 330 34137 5

WORLDS beyond its lurid and demoralising press coverage. O'Hagan has transformed the disturbing subject of lost children, runaways and the vanished victims of serial sex murderers into an invitation to understand that there is a missing life story, and missing dreams, for every single one who disappears. From Fred West's Gloucester and the street shelters of London to working-class Glasgow and Ayrshire, where his own family story started, he bravely offers us both a social history and a very personal inquiry into human nature. A moving, sympathetic and regenerative book.



MORALITY PLAY By Barry Unsworth Penguin, £5.99 ISBN 0-14-107574-1

AN OUTCAST cleric breaches his faith and joins a band of travelling players in late 14th century England. Transgression thus sets the theme of Unsworth's skilfully wrought novel, which has at its heart a Morality Play based not on the Bible. but on a real-life murder. By tempting providence, how-ever, the players discover that neither the murder nor the world they inhabit is as it seems, as their efforts to unmask the true nature of the murder inadvertently unleash a chain of events and meanings beyond their control. A stark, richly allusive novel pierced by darkness and revelation and

she becomes deeply em-broiled in the affairs of a decaying stately pile owned by her lover's misanthropic brother. This novel romps zestfully along. Zanna has sex with a stranger on the floor of Elizabeth Taylor's lavish suite in the New York Plaza Hotel. At first her business thrives, then sadly fades. She loses her lover. but finds him in the end. Does Penny Perrick expect us to believe all this? No, but

penumbra of doubt. Contributors: Fanny Blake. Ross Leckie. Tom Newton Dunn, Victoria Walker, Alison Burns.

Country songs on a squeeze-box

IN Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby. Nick Carraway, the narrator, reflects on the wonder of "the fresh, green breast of the new world" with which the first immigrants were presented. Less lyrical, but not a whit less eloquent, in her vigorous, salty and extraordinary novel Annie Proulx, whose Shipping News was a surprise bestseller, takes us into the

beating heart of an infant nation: and a raw, dangerous, wild place it is too. Furthermore, in employing a narrative device - tracing the passage over 100 years of an accordion brought by a Sicilian to "La Merica" in the 1870s — frequently found in popular novels, she achieves a marriage between the clever tricks of the former and the necessary esotericism of a writer intent on her vision and

of an accordion. Elizabeth Buchan is haunted by the music

voice. This is not to suggest that she

does not manipulate her material into shape. She does, shamelessly and with gusto, battering at it with her huge energy, her gift for immediacy and her toughness.

Its sound "hoarse and crying, reminding listeners of the brutalities of love, of various hungers", the accordion fetches up in New Orleans, out on the Midwest prairies where Germans have settled, in Cajun bayoux, downtown Chicago, in Texas and Mississipoi. It is heard in and in cellars and on it are played

M ACCORDION CRIMES By E. Annie Proulx Fourth Estate, £16.99 ISBN 1857025083

polkas and folksong, jazz, country

E. Annie Proulx traces the infancy of America through the travels

dance and complainte. Increasingly battered, its apparently haphazard progress from south to north to west is marked by a series of violent events and sudden death, by poverty, disappointment, illness and gruelling labour — the crimes of the title. Of course, this random element is artifice, for the author is drawing a map of a growing country and

pinning down a moment of metamorphosis. "His name taken from him, the language lost, his religion changed, the past unknown, the person he had been ... erased": this is the fate of the immigrant, a tragedy which is actively sought, for in the slaying of identity lies rebirth.

Tapping into the epic narrative tradition, which serves as a guardian and a vehicle for the collective memory, Proulx fuses history with the novel. Fictionalising the people whose lives were unknown, more important unimagined, she outwits the traditional dualism in American

literature - the "grievance and daydream" of a South obsessed by the past slogging it out with the so-called morally and commercially energetic North — to create a crowded canvas which, in its thrust and its choice of character and in its grand mix of music epic and incident, is truly democratic.

It requires nerve to keep the pen steady, particularly as she has discarded the safety net of focusing on one set of characters, but she pulls it off. The detail is breathtaking, her ear for dialogue matchless, her observation unsentimental, her pace infectious. She tackles death, sex and the gruesome with black hilarity and the skills of a born storyteller. Rich and dense, Accordion Crimes is a

A tailor tinkers in Greeneland

John le Carré's blackly comic novel visits Graham Greene's Caribbean stamping grounds, **Peter Millar** says

ONE thing in particular makes John le Carré different from every other writer of popular fiction: clutter. If Messrs Clancy, Forsyth, Archer et al people their twodimensional worlds with cardboard cut-outs, only two pages into the average le Carré already we are bumping into objects, artefacts, anecdotes and cameo characters skulking in the wings, forcing us to give them house room in our imagination: remember the pilfering, cashiered prep-school master in Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy or Herr Kaspar, the wig-wearing head concierge in The



Le Carré: truth and the consequences of deception

Night Manager. Men of no importance but so rounded in themselves that we have to squeeze past them to follow the

So already on page one of The Tailor of Panama lurks Arthur Braithwaite, former senior partner in the firm of Pendel and Braithwaite Co Limitada, "Tailors to Royalty", formerly of Savile Row and presently of the Via Espana, or just off it, a man who is to Harry Pendel the totem of everything he stands for: in short, a legend. For this is a book about legends and lies, about great loves and little betrayals, about the myth of truth and the consequences of deception. As such it is a work

of rare brilliance.

THE TAILOR OF **PANAMA** Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99 ISBN 0 340 68478 X

Alone among espionage writers, le Carré has survived the end of the Cold War without detriment to his fiction, chiefly because he was never really writing about espionage at all. His characters lived because they, rather than what happened to them, were his true subject. The plot in this book, which in the end is almost incidental, is based on the premise that if Panama were to become America's Suez, a Tory government would never do to them what they did to us.

It is not a polemical book the master would never stoop so low - but it is a political one. It is hard to imagine its author voting Conservative. It sual corruption having be-come endemic in Britain, moulded only by clinical selfserving cynicism: the stereovices of Central American societies revealed as ours rather than theirs.

With the 1999 deadline for America to hand over the Panama Canal fast approaching, the bright young hope of the secret service, Andy Osnard, an overweight old Etonian on the make, and Harry Pendel, pillar of expatriate respectability but with a disreputable past, conspire together and apart in a comedy of errors against a dark background. The inspiration, le Carré admits, was Graham Greene's comic novel Our Man in Havana, but the comedy here is black. The motto: tell the boss what he wants to hear, and every man for himself when the chips are

This is a leap for le Carré that almost takes him out of the genre altogether. But wisely not quite. When it comes to the crunch, helicopters of war hovering overhead are far too useful a device to abandon.



Down but not out: Chris Kitch eventually beat drug addiction and abuse to fight her way back from the streets

There but for the grace of God

FOR 20 years, Christine Kitch was a junkie, for most of it, a bag lady. You may have met her on Piccadilly, yelling. "Where are you going? Who are you behind your clothes and your briefcase? and similar unsettling challenges Londoners get from the free-range deranged.

writer, lecturer and television pundit. This is her story, sparely told, of the long road down and the hard slog up. Born illegitimate in Bradford, she was sexually abused, taunted by boys, tormented by burgeoning lesbianism, told by blind old mother that, as a bastard, she was not welcome to her place in the family grave. On the other hand, she read voracious-

suspect him of seeking a new

day-job - but is forced to

conclude, in this instance, that

politics' potential loss could be

Amid the fast-swelling ranks of politician-novelists. Gyles Brandreth has a lot

more going for him than

Edwina Currie, even Douglas

Hurd, certainly Jeffrey Ar-

cher. Not merely, like all the

best after-dinner speakers,

does he know how to spin a

yarn; unlike most politicians,

popular literature's gain.

■ PAVEMENT FOR MY PILLOW By Chris Kitch Orion, £16.99 ISBN 0752803409

ly at grammar school and got a sense of self-worth in the Girl Guides. Expelled, baby, a prison sentence, another baby, prostitution and more prison. Emerging. she had a third baby after a rape, having lost all three into care, she took to drugs, gay love affairs, a period in a schizophrenic ward, rape by a legless vagrant who took her for a boy, and yelling on Piccadilly. In one treatment centre she was even leant over by Princess Di.

However you define rock bottom, this woman has been there.

So how did she get out? She is too honest to offer one solution: there were a series of treatment centres, the gentle affection of nuns, the death of her longtime lover and a pot-pourri of 1990s solutions, ranging from feminism to acupuncture and Clannad music. But I left the book convinced that Kitch returned to society because somewhere in her innermost core was an innate Yorkshire toughness and self-respect. others. It is impossible to withold it.

LIBBY PURVES

A FIRST novel of style, wit and Fanfare from a confidence from a writer pushing 50. previously known only for bedside anthologies of light-hearted trivia, must sure-Commons man ly be accounted an event. When that writer is the Conservative MP for a marginal seat, the reader may glibly true identity of Nick Saint - a

■ WHO IS NICK SAINT? By Gyles Brandreth ISBN 0316879797

he has a touching access to the secrets of the human heart. Never one to funk a challenge, Brandreth chooses to make his fictional debut in the female first person, risking the votes of the blue-rinse brigade on the very first page by admiring a male nude emerg-

ing from a shower. The subse-

quent psycho-search for the

paragon among men, apart from the fact that he believes himself to be Santa Claus could never be called fainthearted. After an epigraph from Goethe, Brandreth quotes liberally from Jung. Freud, Robert Frost. C. S.

> James Baldwin, inter alia. Brandreth's tale is set in an America whose natives speak true-blue Anglo-Saxon - at times very blue - but whose urban landscape he evokes in

Lewis, William Morris and

some style, from New York's notorious Chelsea Hotel to a rackety school for drop-outs in the not-so-deep South, staffed by a beguiling rogues' gallery of variously broken eccentrics. Nor does his gentle foray into the realms of "magic realism" mince its long words, sending the reader to the Scrabble dictionary with such challenges as concinnity, preadamite, enculturation, echo-

lalia, heteroclite and devisal. If Nick Saint is "Peter Pan with the prowess of Tarzan and the wisdom of Solomon'. Brandreth has also for years been a little boy who never grew up, but may finally have done so with this feelgood

ANTHONY HOLDEN

When even Punch was funny

A GENTLEMAN PUBLISHER'S COMMONPLACE BOOK
By John G.Murray, edited by John R. Murray Murray, £9,95 ISBN 0 7195 5623 6

JOHN G. — or "Jock" — Murray ran the publishing house of John Murray until his death in 1993. Whether he was more of a gentleman than SOCIETY milliner Zanna Gringrich lights up post-war London. Others are dowdy. other publishers can be left to them to decide. He was certainly an amusing and courteous man, as well as a great dandy. Moreover, the "gentleman" reference here is really a light-hearted allusion to a remark made long ago: "When Childe Harold was published. Byron woke up to find himself famous and his publisher, John Murray, woke up a gentleman." Murrays

have been around a long time. Jock was well-known for keeping a commonplace book. He would copy into it funny things he had read, and the circle of his authors who used to sit around with him in the famous offices in Albemarle Street would tell him things they had heard or send him pictures. John G. Murray, his son, has compiled this selec-tion from it. The frontispiece is advised to renounce the devil a drawing by Jock's great on his deathbed, "Now is not



Pussies galore: Christmas card from John Craxton

friend. Osbert Lancaster. showing a modern Byron kneeling by a girl, with the Maid of Athens, 'ere we

Give. O give me back my For altho' it's yours tonight Murray's have the

copyright.
That catches the tone of many of the entries. Playful whimsy is the prevailing note. Occasionally something sharper breaks through, such

the time to make enemies", or the anonymous comment on Enoch Powell: "One of the finest minds in Europe until he makes it up."

But more typical are quotes such as Lord Mancroft's "Ar-

VISITING A GALLERY? A NIGHT AT THE OPERA? **GOING OUT** Pages 16,17

guing with a woman is like trying to fold the airmail edition of the The Times in a high wind" (there are quite a lot of teasing observations on women), or the "riddle from Arme Ridler " — "Q: What is the difference between a snowman and a snow woman? A: Snowballs."

Many of the items would make you laugh if they were said spontaneously in conversation, such as, "Please don't talk while I am interrupting", or if you spotted them yourself, such as the hotel notice, "Baths may be had (by arrangement) with the manager-ess only". Here they only raise a smile. But the book certainly gives the flavour of a not-longpassed milieu - one where they would still, you feel, have been passing the old Punch around.

DERWENT MAY

NEW AUTHORS

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Sir Alan Bullock on Joachim Fest's Plotting Hitler's Death; Peter Ackroyd on Harold Bloom's Omens of the Millennium: Andrew Roberts assess Ben Pimlott's biography of the Queen; and Richard Pipes on the memoirs of Mikhail Gorbachev

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GOING OUT



London: a chance to enjoy the storytelling (for all ages) and the literary activities which are taking place all day today as part of Children's Book Week

CHILDREN

LONDON Children's Book Week All-day literary activities and storytelling for children of all ages. Voice Box, Festival Hall,

South Bank, SEI (0171-960 4242). Today, phone for details; 52.50.

The Lazy Daisy Show Circus acts, magic and audience participation. For threeyear-olds and above.

Jackson's Lane Community Centre, Archway Road, N6 (0181-341 4421). Today, Ham and 2pm; £3.

The Last Rainforest The excellent Jactito Visual Theatre presents a series of rainforest adventures. For four-year-olds and above. Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Today, 11.30am and 2pm; £3, cones £2.

Pollo and the Star Fairies Puppet fun with the innovative

Nomad Puppet company. Nomad Studios, Upper Tooting Road, SW17 (0181-767 4005). Tomorrow, 11.30am and 2pm; £2.50.

Under My Sink Peer under the sink and find out what lurks there in this puppet performance. Polka Theatre for Children. The Broadway, SW19 (0181-543 4888). Today, 12.30pm and 2.30pm; £4.

Zippo's Circus New circus entertainment

featuring some fine horse acts. Peckham Rye Park, Peckham Rye, SEI5 (0374 811 811). Today, 2.30pm, 5pm and 7.30pm, tonorrow, Ham and 2.30pm; £3.50-£8.50.

REGIONAL BIRMINGHAM

The Warley National Model Railway Exhibition Model railway show for family and general enthusiasts.

National Exhibition Centre, (0121-780 4133). Today, 10am-7pm, tomorrow, 10am-5pm; £6, two-day ticket £9

The Witches Roald Dahl's tale is adapted for the stage.
Wycombe Swan, St Mary Street (01494 512000). Today, Ham, 2pm and 7pm; E7.50-E10.50. NEWCASTLE

HIGH WYCOMBE

Children's Gallery Collection of toys, games and art for the under-fives. Laing Art Gallery. Higham Place (0191-232 7734). Today, 10am-5pm, tomorrow, 2-5pm; free.

CLASSICAL

LONDON **Holst Singers** Charity event featuring Eastern European and Russian sacred music. Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Moscow Road, W2 (0171-229 8168). Tonight, 7.30pm; E10.

James Lisney Chopin works, including the Funeral March Sonata. Purcell Room. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm; £10.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

JESSYE NORMAN Jessye Norman does not often appear in Britain so the opportunity to hear the great American soprano will be cagerly seized, even with high ticket prices. Her voice is still a glorious instrument but is it always perfectly controlled? Is her diction all it should be? Critics will argue, but music-lovers will flock to hear a genuine world-class diva. RICHARD MORRISON

Festival Hall, South Bank, London SEI (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow. ipm; £8-£50.

Nash Ensemble Works by Rossini, Ravel, Saint-Saëns and Tchaikovsky. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6-£14.

New Queen's Hall Orchestra/Maguire Mahler's Fourth Symphony and Elgar's Cello Concerto on period instruments. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; E7-E20.

London: Jessye Norman

■ REGIONAL

BASINGSTOKE London Mozart Players/Bamert John Field's Fourth Piano Concerto and Mozart's Symphony No 39. The Anvil. Churchill Way (01256 844244). Tomorrow, 7.45pm; £8.50-£18.50.

HADDINGTON BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra/Brabbins Benjamin Britten's Les Illuminations song cycle, and Mahler's Fourth Symphony. St Mary's Parish Church, (01620 \$23738). Tonight, 7.30pm; £10, concs £3.

ST ANDREWS Scottish Chamber Orchestra/Swenson Sally Beamish's new work. Younger Hall, University of St Andrews. North Street (01334 474610). Tonight, 7.45pm; £4.50-£13.

(0171-589 8212). Tonight,

tomorrow, Spm: £8.50-£23.50.* **■ REGIONAL ABERYSTWYTH** Jenny Edair

The return of the Pernier winner and peroxide queen of the female-centric gag. Aberystwyth Arts Čentre, Penglais Road (01970 623232). Tonight, 7.30pm; £10.

BIRMINGHAM Jenny Eclair See Aberystwyth. Birmingham Rep, Broad Street (0121-236 4455). Tomorrow, 7.30pm;



London: Arthur Smith stands up for the NHS

COLCHESTER Scott Capurro The outrageous American. one of last year's Perrier Award nominees, takes the mike. Colchester Arts Centre. St Mary-at-the-Walls, Church Street (01206 577301). Tonight, 8pm; E5, concs

LEICESTER Harry Hill Saturday Night Live's star does stand-up. De Montfort Hall. Granville Road (0116-233 3111). Tomorrow, 8pm; £10.

LIVERPOOL Rhona Cameron Gaytime TV's Scottish presenter in her first solo show. Neptune Theatre,

Hanover Street (0151-709 7844). Tonight, Spm; £7. cones E5.

Lee Hurst Television's sporting antihero dishes the gags. Apollo Theatre. Ardwick Green (0161-242

Lee Hurst See Manchester. Grand Theatre. Singleton Street (01792 475715). Tonight. 8pm: £8.50-£10.

Bob Downe Sing-along and toe-tap with the star who reinvented nylon slacks and hair lacquer. Wyvern Theatre, Theatre Square (01793

524481). Tonight, 7.30pm: £10.

Bob Downe See Swindon. Grand Opera House,

JAZZ

■ LONDON Freddy Cole Trio Nat King Cole's little brother sings and plays. Cafe Royal, Regent Street, WI (0171-437 9090). Tonight, 8pm: £25.

Blossom Dearie Squeaky-voiced. diminutive American chanteuse. University College School Theatre. Frognal, NW3 (0171-435 2215). Tomorrow, 7.45pm; £8.

Dennis Rollins's Dee Roe Jazz, ska and funk trombonist leads this octet. Parkway, NWI (0171-344 0044). Tonight, 7pm; £9.

Georgie Fame. Dale Barlow

Soul-lazz organ legend. moving into mainstream. Ronnie Scott's. Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Tonight, 9pm: £15.

Clyde Stubblefield James Brown's iconic and much-sampled Funky Drummer continues his gigs and workshops.

12 Bar Club, Denmark Street, WC2 (0171-916 6989). Tonight.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

MICHAEL HASHIM phonists Harry Allen and Michael Hashim make a compelling double-act. Allen, the ballad tradition on his new album, Blue Skies, while sound of Johnny Hodges and other swing giants and adds a

Pizza Express, Dean Street, WI (0171-439 8722) tonight, 9pm; £15.

Mike and Kate Westbrook, Ed Jones untet Ascen Soho Jazz Festival triple composer Mike Westbrook Kate, plus saxophonist Ed Jones and Steve Plews's freestyle orchestra. Ronnie Scott's. Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Tomorrow, 8pm; £8.

tomorrow, 8pm; £10.

HARRY ALLEN AND Call them young fogies, if you wish, but American saxoa mellow tenor player in the Ben Webster mould explores Hashim takes the vintage

dash of showmanship. CLIVE DAVIS Soho Jazz Festival,

bill: bandleader, pianist and duets with torch-singer wife

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM Tim Garland Quartet Barnstorming multireedist, with drummer Winston Clifford, guitarist Phil Robson and bassist Laurence Cottle. The Custard Factory. Gibbs Street (0121-604 7777). Tonight, 8pm; £5.

BRIGHTON Martin Taylor's Spirit of **Django** Gypsy jazz guitarist features saxist Dave O'Higgins and accordionist Jack Emblow. Sallis Benney Theatre. University of Brighton,

Tomorrow, Spm; E9. NEWCASTLE Helen Watson Folk and blues-edged diva. Live Theatre, Broad Chare. (0191-232 1232). Tonight, 8pm;

Grand Parade (01273 709709).

STALBANS Ray Gaskins Soul-jazz saxophonist. Red Note at Maltings Arts Centre, The Maltings (01727 44222). Tonight, 8.30pm; £7.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY Ray Gelato and Alex **Garnett's Tough Tenors** Beefy tenor pairing with pianist Richard Busiakiewicz. Fairway Suite, Old Herns Lane (01438 717997). Tomorrow, 8pm; £5.

OPERA



London: Rosa Mannion

■ LONDON Don Giovanni Sir Georg Solti conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert performance of Mozart. Festival Hall. South Bank Centre, SEI (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7pm;

La Traviata New English National Opera production, with Rosa Mannion as Violetta, directed by Jonathan Miller. London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Tonight,

6.30pm; £6.50-£55. Die Walküre Richard Jones's production, featuring John Tomlinson as Wotan. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Today, 4pm;

REGIONAL LEEDS

£7-£147.50.

Iphigenia in Aulis An English sung version of Gluck's opera in a new production. Grand Theatre. New Briggate (0113-245 9351). Tonight, 7.15pm; E7.50-E38.

CRITIC'S CHOICE THE DOCTOR OF

MYDDFAI Peter Maxwell Davies's new opera was commissioned by the Welsh National, successfully premiered in the summer and now joins the company's autumn repertory. Dealing in part with a mysterious disease and a heartless European bureaucracy, it shows that the corrupting nature of power never goes away. There is plenty for the WNO Chorus to do, starring roles for Paul Whelan as the Doctor and Gwynne Howeli as the Euro-Ruler, and the opera is short, sharp and crisply directed by its librettist, David Pountney. Richard Armstrong is the conductor. RODNEY MILNES

New Theatre. Park Place, Cardiff (01222 878889). Today, 7.15pm; £8-£45.

DANCE Theatre Royal, ■ LONDON Adventures in Motion

Pictures: Swan Lake SUNDERLAND Olivier Award-winning production of Tchaikovsky's ballet choreographed by Birmingham Royal Ballet: Swan Lake Matthew Bourne and featuring the acclaimed all-male corps of swans.

Piccadilly Theatre, Empire Theatre, Denman Street, WI (0171-369 1734). Today, 2.30pm (Kemp/Wright/Mortimer) and 7.30pm (Cooper/Ambler/

Circles in Time Jak Ahluwalia choreographs this innovative work with jazz music from Julian Nicholas. Jackson's Lane Community Centre, Archway Road, N6 (0181-341 4421). Tonight, 8pm; £6.

Chadwick); £9.50-£30.

CKUTIC'S CHOICE RICHARD ALSTON DANCE COMPANY Earlier this year Richard Alston choreographed to Harrison Birtwistle. Now, as part of the Dance Umbrella festival, his Dance Company presents the world premiere of his Okho, a piece for five male dancers set to Iannis Xenakis's score for djembes large African drums played live on stage. The rest of the programme features Dar-shan Singh Bhuller in Or-

pheus Singing and Dreaming to Birtwistle's score. DEBRA CRAINE Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm; £10-

£14, cones £6-£12. **■ REGIONAL**

BELFAST Anthea Williams: Double Chin and Tonic Song-and-dance inspired by the 1930s and 1940s. helped by complimentary gin and tonics in the interval. Old Museum Arts Centre, College Square North (01232 235053). Tonight, 8pm; £6, cones £3.

CHELMSFORD European Ballet: Carmen Love, passion and murder choreographed by Stanislav Tchassov. Civic Theatre Fairfield Road (01245 495028). Tomorrow, 7,30pm; Ell-El3, cones £8.50-£10.50.

DUNDEE Scottish Dance Theatre оп Тоиг The work of four leading choreographers. Dundee Repertory Theatre, Tay Square (01382 223530). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6.75.

EDINBURGH The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago: Billboards Acclaimed performance set to music by Prince. Festival Theatre, Nicolson Street (0131-529 6000). Tonight, tomorrow. 8pm, today mat, 2.30pm; £4.50-£19.50.

NOTTINGHAM Northern Ballet Theatre: Dracula Bram Stoker's classic story, choreographed by Christopher Gable and Michael Barrett-Pink and set

to a score by Philip Feeney. Theatre Square (0) 15-948 2626). Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; £7.50-£24.

Peter Wright and Galina Samsova's production. High Street West (0191-514 2517). Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; £10.

POP

LONDON Fernest Arcenaux and the Thunders Louisianan creole zydeco star on his first visit to Britain for 15 years. 100 Club, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-636 0933). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £6.

01B A Abba imitators with their own cult following. Lewisham Theatre, Rushey Green, SE8 (0181-690 0002). Tonight, 8pm; E10.50-E12.50.

David Devant and His Spirit Wife Quirky pop eccentrics. The Garage, Highbury Corner, N5 (0171-607 1818). Tonight, 8pm; £5.

Hungarian folk music. Barbican Centre Foyer, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141). Tonight, 5.20pm; free.



Bristol: Galliano displays the acid jazz funk crew

■ REGIONAL

BRISTOL Galliano Acid jazz funk crew. Anson Rooms, Bristol University, Queens Road (0117-973 5035). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8.50.

CHATHAM Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel Seventies pop hero with new album, Poetic Justice. Central Theatre. High Street (01634 403868). Tonight, 7.30pm; phone for ticket prices.

GOSPORT The Popes
Beery Celtic folk from
Shane MacGowan's band. RKL Club. The Crossways (01705 349334). Tonight, 8pm; phone for prices.

INVERNESS Wolfstone Scottish folk-rockers. Inverness Ice Centre. Bught Park (01463 235711). Tonight, 7.30pm; phone for ticket prices.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

THE JON SPENCER **BLUES EXPLOSION** Jon Spencer is a punk sex-god from New York with a dishevelled guitar sound and a maddog vocal style. He is joined in the aptly named Explosion by guitarist Judah Bauer and drummer Russell Simins. Together they play fast and loose with the blues lexicon, mangled into shape by bizarre influences from Jerry Lee Lewis to the Cramps. They are here to promote a new album. Now I Got Worry, scaling new beights of anarchorock'n'roll ecstasy.

DAVID SINCLAIR Fleece & Firkin St Thomas Street, Bristol (0117-927 7150). Tonight, 8pm; Astoria Charing Cross Road London WC2 (0171-434 0403).

LEICESTER The Bluetones, Geneva Brit-pop guitar band, with support from Scottish newcomers Geneva. De Montfort Hall. Granville Road (0116-233 3111). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8.50.

Tomorrow, 8pm; £8.

Ocean Colour Scene Sixties-style British R & Binfluenced rockers adopted by Paul Weller. University of East Anglia, The Plain (01603 505401). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £10.

COMEDY

E LONDON Brick Lane Music Hall Extravaganza Vincent Chair hosts the Brick Lane Music Hall,

Brick Lane, El (0171-377

8787/9797). Tonight, 7.30pm; £20 with dinner. Stand Up for the NHS Star-studded comedy event including Jo Brand, John Moloney, Arthur Smith and Bill Bailey.

Wimbledon Theatre, The Broadway, SW19 (0181-540 0362). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £12.50, concs £10. CRITIC'S CHOICE PERRIER PICK OF THE

FRINGE In a series of Sunday night double bills, the Perrier Award transfers the best Edinburgh Festival comics to the West End. This weekend you can catch Dominic Holland, the ordinary bloke whose observational wit on the subject of DIY and the price of king prawns is charmingly lively. He is joined by the wolfy-looking, slightly wackier American stand-up Rich Hall who explains where all the jokes have gone with a world map and improvises a story incorporating the brand names of chocolate bars.

KATE BASSETT Her Majesty's, Haymarket. SWI (017)-494 5413). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £5-£12. Victoria Wood Everyone's favourite. Albert Hall,

Kensington Gore, SW7

MANCHESTER

2560). Tomorrow, Spm: £10. concs £8. **SWANSEA**

SWINDON

Cumberland Street (01904 671818). Oct 6, 8pm; £8.



STAR-STUDDED FIELD TAKES ON

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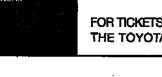
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GOING OUT

GALLERIES

CRITIC'S CHOICE

EVELYN DE MORGAN Evelyn De Morgan died in 1916. but lived long enough to see her late Pre-Raphaelite style of visionary art go out of fashion. Recently her work has turned up in a number of exhibitions, such as The Last Romantics at the Barbican in 1989. She was born in 1855, studied at the Slade, and married the potter and decorative artist William De Morgan. The De Morgans became involved with spiritualism and psychic communication, and much of her art reflects this and was strongly influenced by Burne-Jones. The two exhibitions, of the drawings and the paintings, show she was a brilliant draughtsman, an exquisite colourist, and had a personal vision which survives the vicissitudes of fashion.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum East Cliff, Bournemouth (01202 471800). Today and tomorrow. 10am-5pm: free.

ELONDON Blumenfeld: A Fetish for Beauty

Retrospective of the photographer's classic fashion. portraiture and nude images. Barbican Art Gallery. Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141). Today, 10am-6.45pm. tomorrow, midday-6.45pm; £4.50 (includes entry to Jam).

Antony Gormley: Field for the British Isles Installation comprising 40,000 individually crafted terracotta figures in a room. Hayward Gallery, Belvedere Road, SEI (0171-960) 4242). Today, tomorrow, IOam-



Edinburgh: St Thomas by Diego Velázquez, on display at the National Gallery of Scotland

Multi-media exhibition exploring culture and music. Barbican Art Gallery. Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141). Today, 10am-6.45pm. tomorrow, midday-6.45pm;

BP Portrait Award Annual open submission portrait show. National Portrait Gallery. St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055). Today, 10am-6pm, tomorrow, midday-6pm;

Eve Arnold: In Retrospect Four decades of the acclaimed Magnum photojournalist's life and work. Ikon Gallery.

■ REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM

COVENTRY The Director's Eye European film-makers, their drawings and photographs. Mead Gallery, Arts Centre, University of Warwick, (01203 523523 ext 2590). Today. 10am-8pm; free.

John Bright Street (0121-643

0708). Today, Harn-6pm; free.

DURHAM Bill Viola

Site-specific installation from the master of the video spectacle. Durham Cathedral, Palace Green (0191-384 3720/386 4266). Today, tomorrow, phone for times; free.

EDINBURGH Velázoucz in Seville Series of paintings from Velázquez's formative years. National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound (0131-556 8921). Today. 10am-5pm, Sun. 2-5pm; £4, cones £2.50.

David Mach New installation made from newspapers. Ferens Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square (01482 610610). Today, 10am-5pm,

tomorrow, 1.30-4.30pm; free. MIDDLESBROUGH

Marina Abramovic New site-specific work from the acclaimed artist. Middlesbrough Art Gallery, Linthorpe Road (01642 247445). Today, 10am-6pm; free.

OXFORD Ruskin and Oxford Appraisal of the artist and art critic's work. Ashmolean Museum Beaumont Street (01865 278000). Today. 10am-4pm,

tomorrow, 2-4pm; free.

COMING SOON

LONDON From Oct 16 In the Company of Men The RSC launches its London season in the Barbican Pit with the British premiere of Edward Bond's contemporary drama. Box office: 0171-638 8891.

Dec 17-Jan 4 The Kirov Ballet The company presents The Nutcracker for a season at the London Coliseum. Box office: 0171-632 8300.

Jan 9-30

The Russian clown Slava Polunin brings his Edinburgh Fringe hit to London's Peacock Theatre (formerly the Royalty). Prior to London it will tour to Dublin, High Wycombe, Halifax, Barnstaple, Oxford, Liverpool, Belfast, Dartford and Crawley. London box office: 0171-314 8800.

REGIONAL BIRMINGHAM

Oct 8-9 Les Danaides Silviu Purcarete's epic production of Aeschylus's tragedy plays two performances only at the National Indoor Arena. Box office: 0121-236 4455.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON From Nov 21 Much Ado About Nothing The RSC launches its Stratford season with a new production, starring Alex Jennings as Benedick, Siobhan Redmond as Beatrice. Box

office: 01789 295623.



On tour. Slava Polunin, the clown, will present Snowshow

TOURING Oct 12-19 David Murray USA/UK Big Band

The tenor saxophonist tours to Liverpool (Bluecoat Arts Centre, Oct 12-13, 0151-709 5297), London (Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oct 14, 0171-960 4242), Brighton (Sallis Benney Theatre, Oct 15, 01273 709709), Exeter (St George's Hall, Oct 16, 01392 421111). Manchester (Nia Centre, Oct 17, 0161-227 9254), Southampton (Turner Sims Hall, 01703 595151) and Birmingham (Adrian Boult Hall, 0121-236 5622).

FAIRS

[©]■ LONDON **Belly Dancing:** Masterclass

Maria Louisa from Carlton TV flexes her muscles in the classroom. Albany Theatre, Douglas Way, SE8 (0181-692 4446). Today, 3.15-5.45pm; £8, concs £5 (per class).

Heritage Antiques Fair lewellery, prints. paintings, ceramics and more on display. London Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, W1 (0171-493 8000). Tomorrow, Ham-5pm; £1, child free.

Horse of the Year Shov Horse play featuring the Cadre Noir of Saumur. Wembley Arena, Empire Way, HA9 (0181-900 1234). Today, tomorrow: phone for details.

■ REGIONAL

BEACONSFIELD 0th Wooburn Arts Festiva!

Concerts, exhibitions, theatre and children's events. Wooburn Arts Festival Information, Various venues (01628 524243). Today, tomorrow: phone for details.

GUILDFORD 29th Surrey Antiques Fair Antiques and collectables. Civic Hall (01483 422562). Today. ends tomorrow, Ham-7pm: <u> 5</u>3-84.

LIVERPOOL Visionfest Annual visual arts and design fair.

Merseyside Tourism and Conference Centre, Atlantic Pavilion (0151-709 2444). Today, tomorrow; phone for details.

MANCHESTER Manchester Festival Comedy, music, club culture and digital art. Manchester Festival Information, Various venues (0161-236

NORTHAMPTON Doll Fair Doll mania with toys and miniatures for sale. Lamport Hall and the (01604 686272). Tomorrow,



London: Cadre Noir at the Horse of the Year Show

STROUD 50th Stroud and District Arts Festival A wealth of arts activities

7592). Today, ends tomorrow: phone for details.

10.30am-4.30pm; £2.50, concs



covering theatre and music. Stroud and District Arts Festival Information, Various

venues (01453 765768).

Today, tomorrow, times vary: phone for details.

SULGRAVE Melford Hys Companie Tudor travelling players. Sulgrave Manor, Manor Road (01295 760205). Today, ends tomorrow, 10.30am-5pm; £4, child £2, family £11.

SWANSEA Swansea Celtic Festival Traditional crafts, folk and sports events. Various venues (01792 636960). From: tomorrow, phone for details.

WINDSOR Windsor Festival The music fest ends today. Windsor Festival Information. Various venues (01753 623400), Times vary: phone for details.

FILM

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ COURAGE UNDER FIRE (15) Denzel Washington searches for truth in the Gulf War. Half-way intelligent drama, with Meg Ryan. Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys 6 (0990 883990) Virgin

Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) LETTERS FROM THE EAST Inert drama about an

Estonian-born woman

searching for her mother. Director, Andrew Grieve. NFT (0171-928 3232) (5)

 THE NUTTY PROFESSOR (12) Lively if vulgar reworking of the old Jerry Lewis film, with Eddie Murphy as the misfit professor. Director, Tom Shadyac. Clapham Picture House

(0171-498 3323) Empire (a) (0990 888 990) (a) MGM Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (5) (0990 888990) Virgins: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Trocadero (0171-434 0031)

TOUCH OF EVIL (12) Revival of Orson Welles's flamboyant thriller from 1958 about murky happenings on the Mexican border. With Charlton Heston, Welles himself, Janet Leigh and Marlene Dietrich. Lumiere (0171-836 0691)

CRITIC'S CHOICE

JUDE (LS) Neither Hardy's novel nor the film's director, Michael Winterbottom, are cut out for making pretty pictures, and this is a tale about dashed hopes and illicit love. But visually much is remarkable; Christopher Eccleston acts in earnest, and Kate Winslet gives a mesmerising performance as Sue, the stonecu ter's vivacious cousin. turned wan by the kicks of fate. GEOFF BROWN

ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Barbican Cinema (017)-638 8891) Gate Notting Hill (0171-727 4043) Odeon Haymarket (01426-915 353) Odeon Kensington (01426-914 666) Odeon Swiss Cottage (0171-586 3057)

New release: Christopher

Screen on Baker Street (0171-935 2772) Screen on the Green (0171-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (017)-792 3332) Virgin Chelsea (017)-352 50%) Warner West End (0171-437 4343)

■ CURRENT

BLOOD SIMPLE (18) Welcome revival of the made in 1983; a film noir homage made with coldblooded verve. With John Getz and Francis McDormand. MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) Watermans (0181-568

FARGO (18) A kidnapping goes haywire in the Midwest. Wonderful, humane crime thriller from Joel and Ethan Coen, with Frances McDormand and William Н. Масу. ABC Panton Street (017)-930 0631) Plaza 🔊 (0990

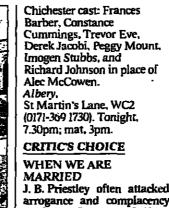
◆ JANE EYRE (PG) Decent but bloodless adaptation of the novel, with Charlotte Gainsbourg and William Hurt Director, Franco Zeffirelli. Barbican (10171-638 8891) Notting Hill Coronet (10171-727 6705) Richmond (0181-332 0030) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Screen/Hill (2) (0171-435 3366) Virgins: Fulham Road (017)-370 2636) Haymarket (0171-839 1527) Warner West End (0171-437 4343)

Enjoyable Bertolucci about an American teenager's sexual flowering in Tuscany, With Liv Tyler. ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) Metro (0171-437 0757) Odeon Kensington (01426 914666) Virgin Chelsea (0171-352 5096)

LONDON Laughter on the 23rd Floor

Neil Simon's very funny account of working among a team of scriptwriters for comedian Sid Caesar back in the 1950s, fighting against time and philistine producers. Gene Wilder plays Sid. Directed by Roger Haines. responsible for last year's Manchester production. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, WI (0171-494 5040). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 4pm.

Uncie Vanya Bill Bryden's starry



- viz, An Inspector Calls but never so humorously or robustly as in his tale of the

three respectable couples who Eccleston stars in Jude belatedly find out they were never properly hitched. The pick of the performances comes from Dawn French. whose bullying wife remains magnificently menacing, whether she is prowling the

Coen brothers' debut feature,

888990)

◆ STEALING BEAUTY

THEATRE

but keep an eye out for portly Leo McKern as the photographer. You will not see the solemnity of the exceedingly drunk better played. BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836

8888). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat,

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Diana Rigg and David Suchet star Albee's most famous play. Almeida.

Almeida Street, NI (017)-

359 4404). Tonight, 7.30pm;

REGIONAL CHELTENHAM

stage like a killer-rhino or Northern Stage brings George Orwell's farmyard advancing on her husband like a blend of Texas gunfable vividly to life in a slinger and sumo wrestler: bold physical theatre piece. Frank McConnell's muscular choreography is complemented by a thumping, terrifying soundtrack. Alan Lyddiard directs lan Wooldridge's adaptation. Unsuitable for ages 12 and under.

Everyman, Regent Street (01242 572573). Tonight, 8pm.

SHEFFIELD Hav Fever Jane How, Maria Charles, Peter McEnery head Deborah Paige's production of Coward's evergreen comedy on how to drive house guests off the premises.

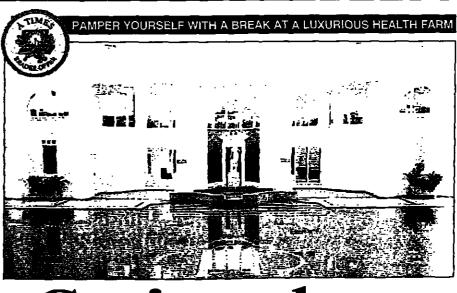
Crucible. Norfolk Street (0114-276 9922). Tonight, 7.30pm.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST FRENCH SKI

DON'T MISS

■ The Warley National Model Railway Exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham: something for everyone. See Children A rare chance to hear the great American soprano. Jessye Norman perform in Britain. See Classical ■ Dawn French and Leo McKern in J B Priestley's When We Are Married. See Theatre

RESORTS Pages 20,21



Get into shape

this exclusive offer for Times readers. Choose either Springs Hydro, set in Leicestershire, with its recently completed air conditioned studios and

new Life Fitness gymnasium, or Henlow Grange, Bedfordshire, the largest health resort in Britain with a 25m indoor swimming pool. Both combine comfortable and elegant surroundings with the opportunity to sample a wide range of fitness, beauty and relaxation treatments supervised by professional therapists and instructors.

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break at Henlow Grange is £169.95, at Springs Hydro is £134.95 (single supplement £29.95). All rooms have en suite bathrooms and colour television with satellite. This offer is available from 7 October.

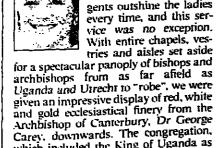
1996 until 22 November, 1996, subject to availability. This offer cannot be used with any

other promotion. Saturday night stays

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To book, or for further details, contact: Henlow Grange, Henlow, Beds, SGI6 6DB, telephone 01462 811111 or

Springs Hydro, Packington, Nr Ashby. Leicestershire, LE65 ITG, telephone 01530 273 873. When booking, please quote The Times.



for a spectacular panoply of bishops and archbishops from as far afield as Uganda and Utrecht to "robe", we were given an impressive display of red, white and gold ecclesiastical finery from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, downwards. The congregation, which included the King of Uganda as well as other dignitaries from around the world, was there to witness the consecration of three bishops for the London diocese, men chosen as "honest and

AT occasions of pomp

and circumstance in the

Church of England, the

discreet spiritual persons". Thousands turned out to see these "trusty and well beloved" new bishops given the sees of Stepney, Kensington and Fulham on the feast day of Lancelot Andrewes, 17th-century Bishop of Winchester. Andrewes, one of the translators of the Authorised Version of the Bible. was also a defender of the Oath of Allegiance, imposed after the Gunpowder Plot in 1006. Each of the new bishops swore this oath to the Queen in St Dunstan's Chapel before the service, and also took the "Oath of due obedience" to

the Archbishop of Canterbury. In recent years the Church of England has been criticised for many things, one chief complaint being that its bishops are bland, boring and, worst of all, liberal in

be levelled at the latest crop. Dr John Sentamu, a former High Court judge in Uganda, former vicar of Tulse Hill and now Bishop of Stepney, is arguably the most distinguished. A man of formidable intellect and talent, his south London church has achieved international recognition for its music and vitality. During the service we even sang a psalm, number 119, to music he had composed. Bishop number two, the Right Rev Michael Colclough, formerly an archdeacon at London House, the diocesan headquarters, is the most mysterious.

Ruth Gledhill attends a consecration of new bishops at St Paul's Cathedral

Discreet and spiritual persons

their beliefs. None of these charges could

★ A five-star guide ★

BISHOP OF LONDON: The Right Rev Richard Chartres ARCHITECTURE: Discovery of Inico Jones' portico beneath West Front of

during service. ★★★★ SERMON: Bishop Chartres warned that Anglicans must not disappear "into the comfortable invisibility of some privatised, individualistic salvation cult". ★★★ LITURGY: An effective combination of ancient and modern in the language of the

MUSIC: Hymns and songs in Latin and English. Fantastic choir. ★★★★ SPIRITUAL HIGH: Elevating. ** AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Cale in the refurbished crypt. ★★★

AT YOUR SERVICE Wren's masterpiece announced outside

> 1662 prayer book. ★★★ will," and this time there was no protest.

former Rector of Wood Green, in north London, and also chairman of the traditionalist umbrella group, Forward in Faith, which led the opposition to women priests. Days before his consecration to the see of Fulham, Bishop Broadhurst called for the Pope to be acknowledged as head of the Church, above both Queen and archbishop. "All the dreams I had for the Church of England have gone, and it is quite terrible", was one of his many delightfully quotable remarks after the General Synod voted to ordain women in 1992. Few there could forget the recent death of the Dean of St Paul's, Dr Eric Evans, who was due to retire soon and whose absence was a strange form of presence. The archbishop remembered him in his prayers, and prayed also that "each one of us will be encouraged to serve God in the power of the Holy Spirit". The archbishop asked us if it was our will that the bishops be ordained. Most said "yes". A lone voice cried out "no", a protest against the direction the church taking in the wake of women's ordination. Dr Carey, perhaps unsettled, stammered slightly: "Will you ... will you uphold them in their ministry?" More loudly this time, we cried, "We

An urbane character, he commands

respect. But religious affairs correspon-

dents have the highest hopes of number

three, the Right Rev John Broadhurst,

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PAGE 22

This week: France



Inside the ancient Thein Hau Taoist temple in Saigon

he New York lady rich enough to live in the same building as Henry Kissinger brandished an exquisitively carved marble statuette of a Vietnamese peasant carrying two paniers. The man wanted three dollars but I got it for two. You can't go wrong with two dollars can you? she asked. "Or can you?"

We were in the historic town of Hoi An, halfway along Vietnam's eastern coast, and if the American eye for a bargain is undimmed, the Vietnamese desire to embrace the market economy is feverish. Vietnam may be a socialist republic, but it offers the exhilarating spec-Facle of 70 million people pulling themselves up by their sandal straps.

We were passengers aboard Crystal Symphony on the Mystic Passage" leg (Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore) part of her inaugural world cruise. Launched in April last year, she is claimed to one of the world's top four

cruise ships.

Many of the passengers calling at Danang, where the first troops landed in the Vietnam war, were American, though most of them were too old to have served.

Here, the Vietnamese peasants we saw would have to work for two months to earn the \$35 price of the bottle of 1991 Savigny les Beaune Louis Jadot which we had drunk at dinner the night before. But we received a rousing welcome, starting with a dawn cacophony of traditional Vietnamese music.

The people of Hoi An greetd us with pots of tea in the arly 19th-century wooden shop houses, which are among the 844 historic buildings being gradually and sympathetically restored.

Nearby China Beach, with its miles of white sand and huge surf. is beautiful and as yet unspoiled. Now is the time to see it before work starts on a complex of resort hotels.

We had boarded Crystal Symphony at Hong Kong on one of its coldest days in living memory, with the temperature dropping to SC. The ship's staterooms proved a restful blend of bleached wood and cream walls. More than half

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FACT FILE

The next 14-night cruise on Crystal Harmony taking in Vietnam is from Bangkok to Hong Kong and costs from E3.055 per person. British passengers leave by air on October 27.

■ Visas are needed for Vietnam and are available on board for US\$35 (about £24). The next world

cruise on Crystal Symphony departs from Los Angeles on January 17 for 103 days, with fly/cruise sections available from Britain, For example, you can join the ship in Bombay, leaving Britain on March 12, and cruise to Cape Town (*Golden Coast of Africa" sector on a 27-night cruise from £7,395 per person. For a brochure, contact Crystal Cruises ll Quadrant Arcade, Regent Street, London

have verandas. The bathrooms are compact, but finished in tile and marble. There is a Persian carpet on the floor of the men's lavatory.

WIR 6JB (0171-287

The focal point of the ship is a brilliantly lighted staircase which snakes through an atrium to the Crystal Plaza, past a spectacular glass optical illusion of a waterfall. There is a glass piano. On gala nights the whole area sparkles with hundreds of points of light, as the beautifully dressed women wear the diamonds and emeralds, which they rarely dare to take out of the bank vault at home, and diamond studs gleam from the men's dress

Ceasar's Palace, the huge casino operated by the Las Vegas promoters, introduces an endearing note of kitcsh, with busts of the emperors gravely staring above the winking fruit machines.

Throughout the ship, the

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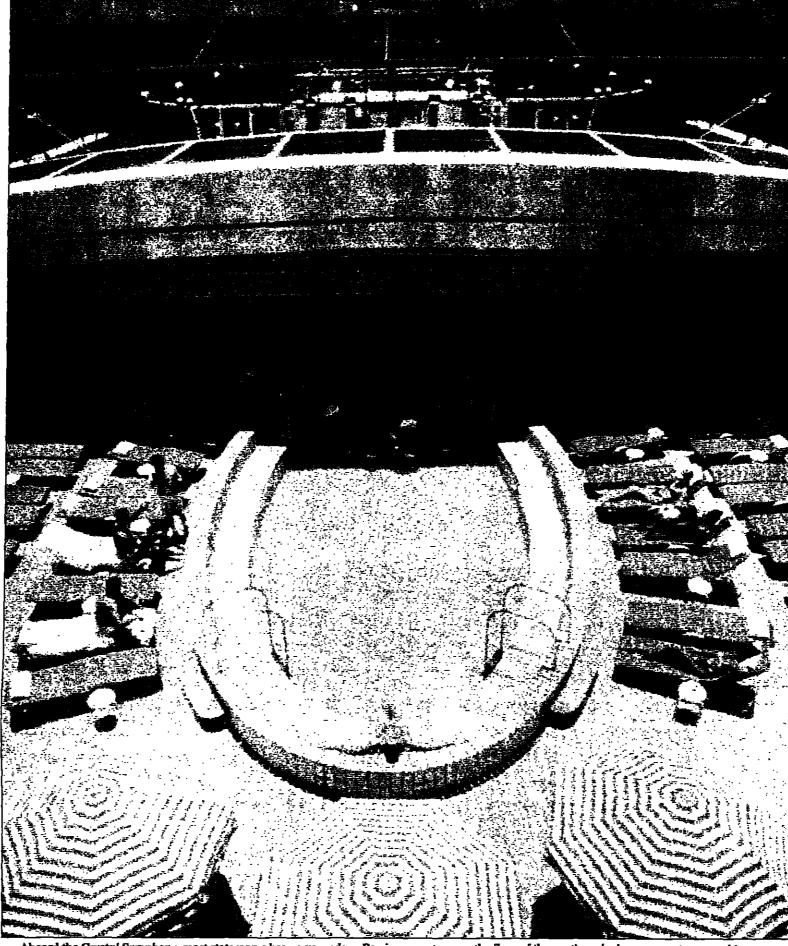
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Aboard the Crystal Symphony, most staterooms have a veranda, a Persian carpet graces the floor of the gent's and wine can cost two month's wages

emphasis is on unashamed sybaritity. The five courses on the European-based dinner menu would typically include caviar or oysters, Dover sole, beef wellington or lobster thermidor, and a huge variety of souns, salads and puddings. You could also eat Chinese or Italian in the intimate Jade or Prego restaurants.

or every one of the 960 passengers there were two crew. Guests could attend a lecture on health and beauty by Beverly Sassoon or a cookery demonstration by the exuberant Wolfgang Puck, creator of the Spago restaurant on Sunset Boulevard, helped by "sous chef Arte Johnson, a star of the Rowan and Martin Laugh-in. Or you could shop for a linked 18-carat gold chain for the pooch you left behind.

Ho Chi Minh City, or Saigon as it is still widely called, is dominated by the

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moped. Whole streets are devoted to shops selling mudguards, horns, bells and handlebars. Tourists are not pestered. I declined a cyclo-cab ride but the driver insisted on placing his vehicle in front of the madcap moneds to allow me to cross the road.

American passengers photographed each other in front of he American Embassy in Le Duan Boulevard, which still bears the stained concrete shield from which the last troops were airlifted after the 1975 Tet offensive. The city's most popular attraction, the War Crimes Museum, was deemed too gruesome to be included in our tour.

When we sailed into Bangkok, the public buildings were draped in black and white. with beautifully worked rosettes, to commorate the death of the popular Princess Mother. A huge pagoda-shaped funeral pyre had been erected opposite the royal palace and women in traditional black and white mourning clothes arrived to pay their respects. The spread of modern Thai-

land continues furiously. A coach tour of the "countryside with less walking" took more than an hour before it left the built-up areas. The beach resort of Pattaya was, as our guide warned us, "Very busy, very dirty, very naughty. Lots of hanky-panky massage. Not real Thai massage"

Many fear that Vietnam's virginal China Beach near Hoi An will emulate Pattaya with its "Porn" hotels and "Boy" bars and polluted sea. As we sailed into Singapore, our destination, the tour manager warned against expecting

bargains. A Tiger beer in the

Long Bar of the over-restored

Raffles Hotel costs ten Singapore dollars (nearly ES); an indifferent coffee at a ferry terminal three dollars. I left the cruise hoping that Vietnam will soon join the financial tigers of the Pacific Rim without following all their examples or compromis-

JOHN GRIGSBY The author was the guest of Crystal Cruises.

ing her unique charm.

THEMED CRUISES

■ Cunard (01703 63166) is offering musical theatre, jazz and cookery cruises aboard the QE2 in 1997. The composer Marvin Hamlish and the actors Patti LuPone and Norman Desmond. are just a few of the stars in the 1997 programme which features over 50 ports of call.

■ Dolphin cruises (0121 445 1010) are offering live music for 1997 with a seven-night cruise on the SeaBreeze and IslandBreeze. Passengers to the Caribbean aboard the SeaBreeze in April can enjoy Country and Western and in September the sound of Motown. In September IslandBreeze will feature rock n'roll and later in the month, Latin American music. Cruises cost from E120 per person for a two night cruise from New York or £895 for a nine-night Caribbean fly-cruise.

■ Holland America (0171-729 1929) is offering a Film Festival at Sea, an 11-day transatlantic cruise departing on 11 April and featuring lectures by film critics, classic film screenings and celebrity interviews. Prices start at £1,103 (including a 50 per cent early booking discount). On 25 October, Big Band Spectacular. an Il-day transatlantic cruise will feature the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Prices start from £1.155 per person.

■ Maiesty Cruise Line (0121-445 1010) is offering golf. American sport, country and western, jazz and blues, cultural festivals and even a psychic cruise on cruises aboard Royal Majesty in 1997. Cultural cruise celebrations include Irish and Italian Festivals and an Octoberfest. Prices start from £319 per person.



INTERNATIONAL

From Río de Janeiro, with its magnificent statue of Christ, to fun cruises and women-only holidays. Plus, Kate Muir's insider view of Paris PAGE 23

TRAVEL

TIPS, PAGE 23

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Resorts get their skis on for winter

than ever, tour operators say they are confident of selling 90 per cent of their holidays at full brochure prices.

After a disastrous snow year in 1995-96 across most of the Alps — Italy and southern France being the exceptions skiing seems on the upswing, fuelled by burgeoning enthusiasm for snowboarding and by the new "miracle" carving skis, which promise to make every beginner an overnight expert.

Skiing holidays are currency driven. which explains the huge popularity of Italy and Canada over the past two seasons. Both countries are again in great demand, the best accommodation in Italy already fully booked in some cases. But

The French ski the way they buy wine, by pays. It's unheard of to find a Frenchman skiing in Austria, for example. And French skiers remain as aloof to the lure of North American skiing — the hottest growth area for British skiers - as they do to the delights of British bifteck.

French ski by départment. Parisians slot into Courchevel arrondissement by arrondissement. Last winter it was the most southerly resorts -particularly Isola 2000, within a snowball's toss of the Mediterranean, which had some of the best snow in the Alps. But few French skiers living north of Grenoble were moved to explore south of Les Deux

British skiers are, by com-parison, adventurers. There is no French resort, from the Pyrenees to the Jura, where British accents are unheard. Discounting the drinking resorts — Soll in Austria and Sauze d'Oulx in Italy - the snowfields of France continue to dominate the top of the popularity charts with every class of British skier.

With the advent of Le Shutcrossings, even budget travellers can now do better in France than in Eastern Europe, especially if one considers quality of snow and savings on unlimited quantities of duty-free goods. Indeed, last winter a number of coaches from Poland and the Czech Republic appeared in Risoul and Valmorel.

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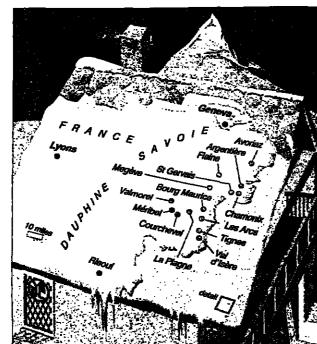
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THE MESSAGE from tour operators is:
"Do not wait for late-booking offers this winter." With brochures launched earlier this autumn, at the time many holidays are chosen, sterling has improved or held steady compared to each of the skiing are chosen, sterling has improved or held steady compared to each of the skiing currencies except the Italian lira, which has fallen about 6 per cent. And all 15 of Italy's top resorts have this winter raised their ski pass prices.

Bookings to Austria show few signs of growth, despite improvement in the exchange rate. But Switzerland, especially in Verbier and Zermatt, is making a comeback, now that sterling has climbed about 8 per cent against the Swiss franc,

and only two out of the top 15 Swiss resorts have raised ski pass prices.

Travel agents report a growing trend, too, towards America. Skiers who have tried Canada find resorts in California and Colorado offer more scope for skiing, better nightlife and warmer weather.



Megève's sunny skiing in forested glades, complemented by an attractive, cobbled town centre and horse-drawn sleighs, are at a price to a clientele older and less obviously nouveau riche than found in Courchevel

Nobody actually counts independent travellers, and estimates range from 25 to 50 per cent of the overall ceiling of about 700,000 winter holidaymakers. But in every tour resorts vastly outnumber

those from any other nation. There are indications, however, this mass popularity may not endure forever. Britons have become habituated to France, through summer holidays and second homes. We are horrified by Swiss prices and still hesitant to cross the Atlantic for six days' skiing. But aside from familiarity, French skiing faces an uphill

French resorts are not the or Zurich airports, with their railway stations built into the air terminals, many Swiss resorts are far quicker and more convenient to get to than the Tarentaise. Austrian pensions offer more commodious accommodation than French flats -- the pokiest per square metre in the Alps — and any Austrian village is cosier than a French concrete complex.

Courchevel is unquestionably more expensive than Verbier or St Anton and arguably dearer than Aspen or Zermatt. Italy's ski lifts and snowmaking are more up to date overall than the French standard. Even the Swiss can be more welcoming than the French, with their patented sniffs, sneers and "Je m'en fou" shrugs, and the entire country is virtually a no-go area for adult skiers during February, when prices skyrocket and province after province of French schoolchildren are let loose on the pistes.

If there is one unarguable appeal of French skiing it is the intermediate interlinked skipass regions, skiing paradises for recreational connoisgroomed piste. Never mind that Italy's Dolomiti Superski and Austria's Top Tauern are hundreds of kilometres bigger than the Trois Vallees in France. Regardless of price or ultimate expanse of skiing terrain, the Trojs Vallées and the Espace Killy are home to the greatest number of British chalet operators in the Alps. And Val d'Isère and Courchevel continue unrivalled in British tastings as the grand cru resorts of the Alps.

NOVER ME NASSE

Argentière, Megeve, St Gervais, Chamonix The Mont Blanc ski pass region (680km of pistes) is the largest in France, spanning the most adventurous off-piste terrain in the Alps (in Chamonix and Argentière) and boast-

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money cachet (in Megève). Chamonix's status as a good-size working town as well as world-class resort al-

affordable chalets, self-catering flats and student dortoirs. The world headquarters of ski mountaineering, Chamonix imbues the rankest beginner with a sense of ski cred. The museum is redolent of rotting ropes and photos from the days when mountain guides were no more than human mules hauling ladies in voluminous dresses and sedan chairs across crevasses.

What Chamonix is not is pretty, cute or cosy. Lift stations for the outlying, easy-skiing sectors of Flègere, Tour and Houches require personal transport, or more patience than can reasonably expected if the bus system, which shuts down at 7pm, is tried. Many tour operators consequently include a van, and even mountain guide, as a package

Argentière's Grands Mont-

CEYLON

ing the most cultured, oldets cable cars raise skiing possibilities from legendary off-piste, runs such as the Pas de Chèvre for which a guide is essential, to good, steep red

and black pistes in a scenic wonderland of crevasses. The village is compact and congenial — off the main street. which must be one of the ugliest in the Alps.

Megève's cobbled centre and horse-drawn sleighs are complemented by sunny skiing in forested glades, attractive at a price to a clientele

veau riche than that found in Courchevel. St Gervais has the faded glamour of an old spa and the quaintness of a cog railway line to Chamonix via Les Houches, making for a relatively inexpensive and less intense alternative to Argentière or Chamonix.

older and less obviously nou-

TROIS VALLEES. ESPACE KILLY Courchevel, Méribel,

Inaccurately claiming to be the world's biggest skiing domain, the area ranks fifth after Italy's Dolomiti Superski, Austria's Top Tauern and the Portes du Soleil and Mont Blanc regions of France; the Trois Vallées certainly is the best connected. The Espace Killy, shared by Tignes and Val d'Isère, doesn't come close to making the top ten of the largest skipass regions in the Alps, but makes up in variety of terrain for any limits in expanse. Both skiing networks

are remarkably efficient and free of queues. All through the night

Courchevel's snow-prooming machines growl and about 550 snow cannons sourt out the white stuff to make the rolling wide and well-marked pistes which are the envy of the Alps. Courchevel flatters beginne and fatigues intermediates with both the ease and the expanse of its skiing. No French resort has more characterful chalets, or more luxurious hotels. Despite the high level of accommodation, at commensurate prices, and a glut of good restaurants, the village architecture inspires little admiration or affection. An advantage in Courchevel. however, is that many chalets are close to the slopes, and the streets are more filled with snow than traffic. The quintessential French resort, Cour-chevel admits that almost 30 per cent of its clientele is British.

Méribel, founded by a Briton, is the most central resort for skiing the Trois Vallèes. and has the most chalets, as well as possibly the most British skiers per square metre of piste in the Alps. It is, unfortunately, not so inexpensive as it once was, but is still a. refuge from chic-shock in Courchevel. Meribel Mottaret, a purpose built apartment block satellite, has better snow and lower prices than Méribel village itself, which though lively enough lacks any pre-tence at alpine charm and

Continued on next page

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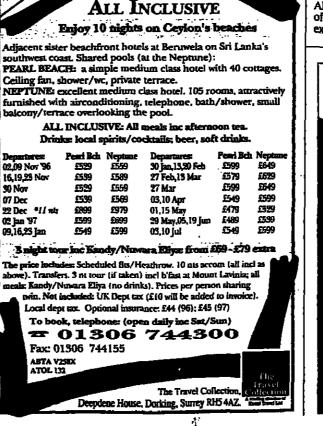
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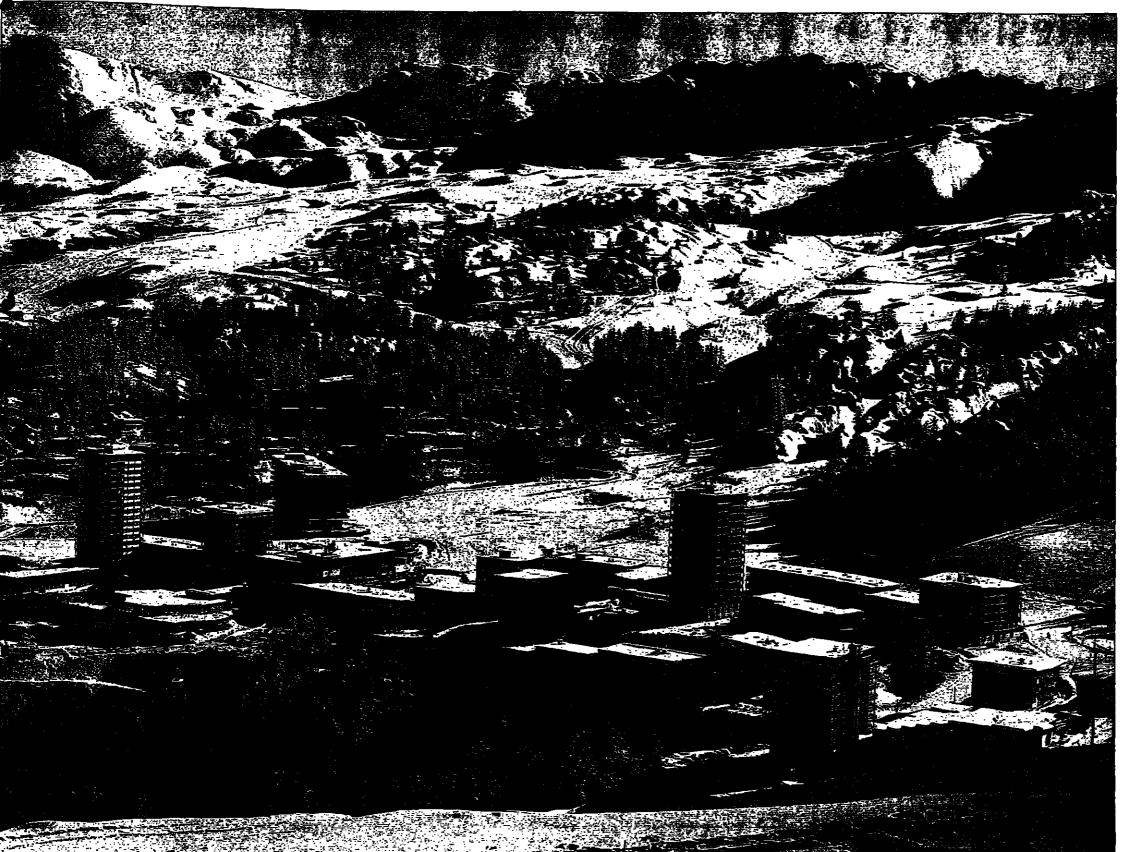


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TRAVEL

..on what the leading ski countries have to offer in the way of amenities, ambience and accommodation



The huge range of skiing around La Plagne is matched by competitive pricing in what seems to be a surplus of self-catering accommodation. Good skiers can have a good holiday, with the emphasis on skiing

Continued from page 20 features an irritating long and winding road.

Val d'Isère is the resort of choice for the bulk of Britain's best skiers, though for serious off piste it has to rank behind Chamonix and Verbier, and cult resorts such as La Grave and Alagna.

What expert skiers get in d'Isère is excellent guiding services from independent operations, such as the Zimmer brothers Top Ski, a byword among British off-piste enth-

Answers from page ${\mathcal F}$

gave the name alkapton."

DIETE'S CRISIS

(c) The Indian muntjac. Cervulus muntjac. found in India, Burma and Tibet. So named from its call. A. Keith, Land Below Wind. 1939: "There is no meat as sweet as barking

(a) The outermost point on the angle of the lower jaw on each side. From the Greek gonia an angle. "Don't jut your gonions at me in that minatory way, Head Master." Pure bluff. We both know that you have been caught red-handed in a shameful piece of staff room duplicity."

(c) A reducing substance which causes urine, left standing, to turn dark through oxidation. A composite word formed from al(kali) + kapton, neuter present participle of kaptein, the Greek for to swallow greedily. "Alcaptonuria: a certain kind of human urine darkens on the addition of alkalis. Bödeker isolated from such urine a substance to which he

(a) A violent stomach ache caused by renal colic. The medical eponym of Joseph Dieti (1804-1878) of Cracow. The symptoms — sudden great abdominal pain, vomiting, distension of the belly, tenderness, and signs of collapse — were strongly suggestive of Dieti's crises."

BARKING DEER

tracked terrain, even if it does couloirs and

The pistes of Tignes and Val d'Isère are nothing like so well groomed as those of the Trois Vallées, and intermediates face some nasty passages in places. But well-advised beginners will not be intimidated either.

Tignes is considerably less attractive a village than Val d'Isère, which itself suffers from neon and metal fatigue

usiasts, and plenty of un- all along the straggling main rather than threatening. In area is only 40 kilometres nightime snowboard jumping accordingly. Val d'Isère is not, though newer hamlet-style developments in rough local stone are both charming and well appointed inside.

PURPOSE BUILT

La Plagne, Les Arcs, Flaine The French invented the concent of concrete in snow tower blocks at altitude in areas where no previous villages existed. These remain masterpieces of skiing convenience and price consciousness, at WORD-WATCHING the cost of genuine village

> Critics of the blocks say they are ugly and unnatural. Covering the concrete with wood helps. But the experience of living inside is inescapably analogous to life, or at least a week, in prison.

Popular with school groups, these resorts suffer queues and chaos during the French

school holidays in February. Les Arcs is typical of the purpose-built concept, with complexes at various altitudes, but, thanks to a quick ten-minute funicular connection, Arcs offers the unusual option of staying down in reasonably priced Bourg St Maurice, which doesn't seem to have a clue there's a major

resort overhead. The skiing features a vertical descent of about 2000m and is good enough for people to have been killed there. though in general skiing is wide open and uncrowded.

each sector at least one ski lift is free, meaning beginners or occasional skiers need never buy a skipass.

La Plagne spreads the archi-tectural blot around 11 residential "stations", the lower complexes tending to be more nearly attractive.

The huge range of skiing is matched by very competitive pricing in what seems to be a surplus of self catering accommodation. As in Les Arcs. good skiers can have a good skiing holiday, with the emphasis on skiing.

Children have been known to burst into tears at the first sight of Flaine's excrescent architecture, but parents rejoice at the short transfer, the car-free central area so easy for shopping and the utter absence of hotshot, childthreatening expert skiers. The Grand Massif ski-pass will find ample scope for

and friendlier to beginners

and early intermediates, who

FOR FAMILY VALUES

Risoul, Valmorel, Avoriaz Finding a resort suitable for mixed abilities is difficult enough, without mixing the ages and, more often than not. trying to prove that three or

four can ski as cheaply as two. Risoul not only caters for children, but also for grandparents, who seem to find the large ski domain shared with Var easy and uncrowded. Indeed, some pistes have been graded to look more difficult than they are. An effort at French animation is made fireworks displays and tire early to their self-catered THIS winter, France is dropflats, missing the floor show, ping its 19 prefix for interna-"Jane and her Serpents" at the Safari Club. Valmorel's nursery slopes the country in favour of the

events. But most families re

are blocked off from passing skiers, who have a wide range of intermediate skiing to choose from in the ski-pass region. The Saperlipopette kindergarten is so popular that reservations are made a year

in advance. An effort to harmonise with nature by using stone and wood and by building small hamlets instead of massive tower blocks is largely successful, though ultimately this is a self catering, price con-scious resort, and, significant-ly, was booked to the rafters all last season.

Avoriaz is the hub of Europe's fourth largest skipass region, the Portes du Soleil. part of 13 villages straddling the Swiss-French border.

Here, every effort is made to animate the tower blocks of Avoriaz, and with great success among young snowboarders especially. If it were another 1,000m higher, the Portes would eclipse the Trois Vallées in renown.

For the moment they are undervalued, both in price and popularity. And the vast scope of cross-frontier skiing, endivened by indifferent signposting, makes for a ski safari-style adventure on groomed pistes which the whole family can share.

• NEXT WEEK: America

LEADING **OPERATORS**

THE biggest choice of French resorts (22) is offered by Crystal (0181-399 5144). First Choice (0161-745 7000) has 19. Thomson (0990 329329) and Inghams (0181-780 4444) both 18. Neilson (0113 239 4555) has 16 and

Airtours (01706 260000) 12. A HOST of with only one resort, some focusing on off pisto or weekends, has evolved in France.

Club Med (0171-581 1161) offers the French way to ski France and features lift passes, tuition, full board, child-minding insurance at nine

The Ski Company (017 730-9600). Aprés ski champagne, certified guides and elegant the company on the tor rung of the huxury ladder in Val d'Isère,

the Portes du Soleil Ski Esprit (01252 616789), which wrote th children, now offers no smoking chalets in Chamonix, Morzine, La Plagne and Courche

guarantee on childca

Ski Peak (01252 794941). This small firm, opera only in Vaulany on the has excellent childminding facilities Collineige (01276 24262 has the best year-rou chalets and old farmhouses in Chamonia and Argentière. It is also the British agent for mountain guides in

Flexiski (0171-352 0044), the specialists in corpor and flexible breaks in Courchevel, now has its own hotel there, as well as

luxurious Meriski (01451 \$44788) the Meribel-only chale specialists, is adding and three of the resort's Motours (01892 518555) with drive-yourself selfcatering, makes skiing affordable at 23 resorts.

Ski Weekend (01367

weekend skiers in Chamonix, attracting skiers of all levels, the company organises editions to the cult resort of La Grave and couloir descents on Mont Blanc. YSE (0181-871 5117). Exclusive to Val d'Isère and claiming more and better chalets than other

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French resorts and flat-letting agencies from Britain should

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operators, this prefix is 4.

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FREE SKIING FOR THE CHILDREN

■ Bursting at the seams during the peak February weeks, French resorts, like all others in the Alps, suffer from lack of custom during the January "hole". This season, the French Government Tourist Office has announced a special promotion for 28 French resorts, among them Chamonix. Courchevel and Val d'Isère. offering a week's free accommodation, free equipment hire and free ski school instruction for children under 12.

The promotion is valid for the three holiday weeks starting Saturdays on January 4, II and IS. For the fine print: the offer is limited to two children per family and is subject to two accompanying adults paying full price for all the services rendered free to the children. Also, it does not include meals in hotels.

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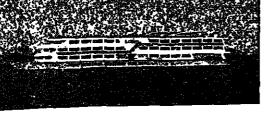
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A cruise along the Nile on a deluxe vessel not too large, and with like-minded travellers, has got to be one of the better ways of escaping the uncertain British ways of escaping the uncertain British weather. This cruising arrangement represents extraordinary value since the tariffincludes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions. If you are looking for a true escape with that magical combina-tion of culture and relaxation, then this is surely an opportunity that should not ITINERARY IN BRIEF

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club with extensive wood panelling and a musical theme running throughout. All cabins have minimum dimensions of 22 sq metres with air-conditioning, panoramic windows and ensuite facilities and, unusually for a river vessel, full tub haths. Public facilities include a large reception with guest services desk and shop, a fine restaurant har and swimming pool. Each cruise has

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The modest charm of Georgian Yarm

for Yarm. Trapped as it is in a loop of the Tees, you cannot approach it from the west; to the south is undulating farmland which gives no hint that it holds anything out of the ordinary: just over the river are the modern and characterless villages of Egglescliffe and Eaglescliffe and five miles away is the ugly sprawl of Teesside. But suddenly there is Yarm, Georgian and unpretentious, one of the most enchanting and perfectly pre-

served towns in England.
"If anything could destroy
it," a friend said, "the traffic would." But it won't. A few years ago a bypass was constructed to rid the town of the 19,000 vehicles which poured down the High Street every day along the Al9 from Stockton to York. It did nothing of the kind: it merely proved what the Government will not recognise - that the more roads you build, the more vehicles there will be to use them. Today there are just as many, and the wide, cobbled shoulders that line the carriageway are packed just as tightly with parked cars.

And there, suddenly, is the splendid High Street, with the Town Hall which was built in 1710 in the Dutch style brought over by William III. stranded in a sea of traffic. The street is

95 M.I

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a conservation area in 1975 — but although there is a fine terrace of merchants' houses which would grace any town in England, together with a few other buildings of genuine distinction, you would hardly describe it as aristocratic. The greater part of it consists of unpretentious domestic buildings, mostly of three storeys, their pantiled roofs all at different levels. When these houses were

built, Yarm must have been a deep-drinking town, as well as an important coaching stop. There were then 16 inns and taverns in the High Street: eight of them are still there. One, the Ketton Ox, named after a shorthorn which was reared nearby and weighed 220 stone when it was slaughtered in 1801, is thought to be more than 400 years old, and was used for cock-fighting. A plaque on the wall of the George and Dragon Hotel stakes Yarm's claim to a place in history more firmly than anything else in the town. Here, it says, on February 12, 1820, was held the first meeting, under the chairmanship Thomas Meynell, of a committee to establish the world's first railway. Only a year earlier the landed gentry. who were determined to pro-

tect their property, had blocked a Parliamentary Bill

proposals went through al-most on the nod. A new committee met in Darlington and appointed an almost uneducated engine-wright, who lived in a cottage at Killingworth, as engineer. His name was George Stephenson. Four years later the Stockton to Darlington line was opened, along which Stephenson's Locomotion No I pulled the earliest passenger carriages. Between 1799 and 1851 a 43-arch viaduct was built across the Tees; mercifully only two of them can be glimpsed beyond the end of the High Street.

ut Yarm's history goes B back many centuries beyond the railway. Long before the Domesday Book there was a community here, and in the early Middle Ages, when it was the only port on the Tees it had a thriving export trade in wheat and wool. It became even more prosperous in 1400 when Bishop Walter Skirlaw built a bridge over the Tees which was nearer to the sea than any other. Part of it still exists. By Elizabeth I's time the town's corn market made it a trading centre for a wide area.

Yarm's great days lasted only until the beginning of the 18th century, when the dev-elopment of Stockton, which was nearer the sea, forced it into slow decline. Then, with the 20th century, came the traffic which Yarm can neither resist nor contain.

Yet the town looks brighter and more confident than it did when I saw it 20 years ago. Buildings have been freshly painted, in a way that brings out the homogenous character of these unplanned houses and shops. And, traffic or no traffic, the old town is safe.

DEREK SEVERN Places to stay: Crathorne
 Hall Hotel, Crathorne, near Yarm, North Yorkshire (01642 700398) single room E104, double from E140. AA Hotel of the

Tall Trees Hotel, Green Lane, Yarm, Cleveland (01642 781050). single £35, double £50. (VAT and full english breakfast



County Bridge at Barnard Castle was built in 1335. In the 17th century a tiny chapel on the bridge served as the setting for illegal marriages

Up hill and down dale

per Teesdale's most awesome phenomenon left me completely exhausted. High Force is where the Tees swells to a raging inferno and plunges 70ft into a vast gorge over the tallest single-drop waterfall in

This is one of the loveliest of all Durham Dales, a polka-dot landscape, green valleys dotted with sheep, and a string of picturesque villages where cottages cluster around multiple village greens.

It was that difficult hour, too late for tea, too early for dinner. I had been on the road since dawn. I had tramped the North Pennine Moors, heard the cry of the curfew, wandered up hill and down dale, viewed High Force from below, and staggered my way up the top - in other words, I had had quite enough nature.

Half an hour later I drove into Barnard Castle, everything you could wish for in a medieval market town. Old Barney, as it is affectionately known, grew around the Norman stronghold built by Bernard Balliol in 1125. Its history unfolds in a series of blue plaques all over town: The King's Head, in Horsemarket, was Dickens's base while he researched the evils of Victori-

His 1837 trip to Teesdale inspired Nicholas Nickleby.



Bowes, providing a model for the infamous Dotheboys Hall: in Galgate two plaques commemorate Cyril Northcote Parkinson, discoverer of Parkinson's Law - "Work expands to fill the time available for its completion" -- and Sir Roger Murchison, who had a the Nile, a mountain range and a river in Australia, and a sound in Greenland named

Along the Bank, the town's oldest street, weavers have been replaced by antique dealers, but two Tudor inns still dispense hospitality, the Old Well Inn. and Blagraves House, now a chic restaurant, where Cromwell was welcomed in 1648.

The octagonal Buttermarket is considered Northumbria's finest, but when built in 1742, in the normal reaction to "modern" architecture, it was

decried as a blot on the landscape. Upstairs served as the town hall, court room, prison and fire station. John Wesley lived to regret giving a sermon there - they turned the fire hoses on him.

But it is the castle itself that lifts the town into the realms of romance, even though all that and ghosts of its tumultuous past. It towers high on a cliff overlooking the Tees, northern boundary of the Yorvik Viking Kingdom, northeastern a carving over a lintel reads

utes of fame in 1660 when Cuthbert Hilton, a clerk, hought up a way of performing illegal marriages. In those days people thought twice before incurring the wrath of the Bishop of

at the centre of the bridge and at the appropriate moment the happy couple were instructed to leap in the air, thereby

county at the moment of Next morning I set off along Newgate, past the alley where

boundary of the Domesday survey and until 1974 the boundary between Durham

The view down to the bridge might ring bells with Richard III who added the castle to his

estates on his marriage to

County Bridge was built in 1335 to replace the Roman ford

linking the forts at Bowes and

Binchester. It enjoyed 15 min-

Durham or the Archbishop of

York. A tiny chapel was built

and Yorkshire.

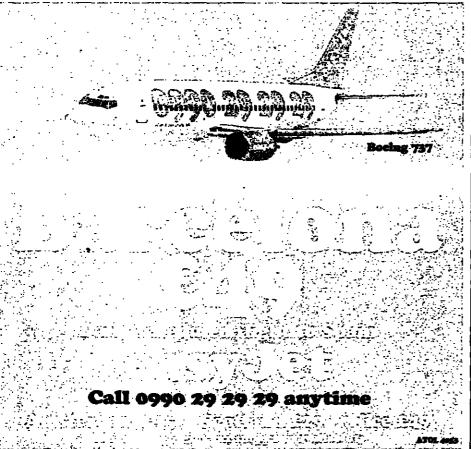
Lady Anne Nevill.

Remember Man is Mortal, to Teesdale's most unexpected delight, a French Renaissancestyle palace. The John and Josephine Bowes Museum. The Bowes were an unlikely pair, he a Teesdale businessman and MP. she a Parisienne actress and artist. Their plan was to build their treasure house for the public to enjoy in Calais but with French revolutionary fervour a little too hot for comfort, they chose Teesdale instead.

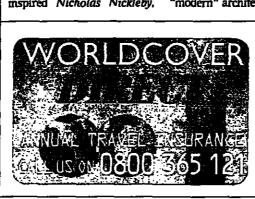
For 15 years they worked to fill their museum with the best art Europe could offer, paintings by El Greco, Goya, Canaletto, fine English and French furniture, porcelain, superb tapestries and oddities such as the silver swan automaton.

Sadly both Mr and Mrs Bowes died before the grand public opening. It remains their splendid memorial, and Teesdale's fine contribution 3, Entente Cordiale.

ROS DRINKWATER



Yarm's Town Hall was built in 1710 in the Dutch style-



DURHAM DALES FACT FILE

The Durham Dales, between the Yorkshire Dales and the Northumberland National Park, are easily reached via the Al to Scotch Corner, then the A66 to Barnard Castle. Nearest rail connection is Darlington where hire cars are available.

■ Where to stay: Old Well Inn, 21 The Bank, Barnard Castle; traditional hospitality at this Tudor Inn, sloping floors and fine food; doubles frm £40 (01833 690130) Headlam Hall Hotel. Gainford; country house hotel in beautiful grounds; doubles from E70.00 (01325 730238). The Morritt Arms Hotel, Greta Bridge. Rokeby (A66). Close by Rokeby Park. Palladian mansion immortalised by Sir Walter Scott and with strong Dickensian connections; double B&B from £70.00 per night (01833 627232).

III John & Josephine Bowes Museum, Newgate, Barnard Castle (01833 690606). Raby Castle, Staindrop, ancient seat of the "kingmaker" Nevills and one of England's most impressive medieval castles, magnificently furnished in haronial style.

■ Egglestone Abbey, just outside Barnard Castle, 12th-century ruined abbey built for the Premonstratensian Order, on a romantic site overlooking the Tees.

Tourist Information Centre, Barnard Castle 43, Galgate. Barnard Castle, County Durham (01833 690909).



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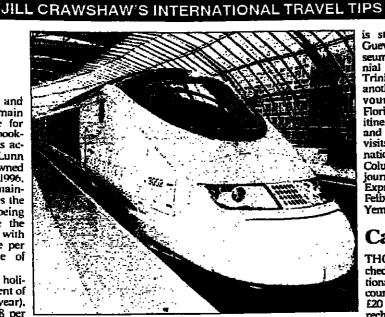
Choice island

SPAIN in general, and Majorca in particular remain by far the No 1 choice for British holidaymakers booking through travel agents according to a survey by Lunn Poly, the Thomson-owned agency. During summer 1996, in all but one British mainland region, Majorca was the favourite, the exception being Greater London, where the island came equal second with Turkey (7 per cent), one per cent behind the whole of

This year, long haul holi-days account for 13 per cent of the total (10 per cent last year), with Florida claiming 38 per cent, the Caribbean 20 per ent, the Dominican Republic per cent. Jamaica and Barbados 3 per cent each and the Bahamas 1 per cent.

The survey showed that half a pint of beer costs 45p in Turkey and £1.93 in France; cup of coffee is 28p in Portugal. £2.14 in Hong Kong: a 10 minute taxi ride is £1.51 in Cyprus and £8 in Austria, a bottle of wine costs 91p in Spain and £5.52 in Australia, while a meal for two with wine costs Ell.27 in Turkey, £31.13 in Austria and £52.91 in Australia.

Holidays for this winter are following the well-established pattern: Spain is up I per cent with 47 per cent, next comes the United States with 11 per cent (10 per cent last winter), the Caribbean 7 per cent (5 per cent) with Italy, Portugal, Cyprus, India and Malta all around the 3 per cent to 4 per cent mark.



Eurostar offers winter trips to the Alps for E144 return

torians, archaeologists and bi-ologists. The ship Minerva returns to the Red Sea in

March 1997 for the Crucible of

Civilisation cruise, which fea-tures Jordan and Egypt and

offers an opportunity to scuba dive in the Red Sea. The cruise

is accompanied by the marine biologist Dr David Irvine.

CUBA, Alaska and the Yemen

are the new additions to longhaul specialist Bales Tours' (01306 885 991) 42-

country programme for 1997. Little visited by tourists, the

university city of Santa Clara

is included in their eight-day

half-board Cuba tour (£899).

The city was the site of the last

battle in the Cuban Revolution

and the troop train captured

by Che Guevara from Batista

Fares start from £1,630.

Cuba calls

Alps by rail

EVERY Saturday from 21 December until 15 March. French Railways (0181-880) 8162) offer a winter service on Eurostar to Lille, then by TGV to Bourg St Maurice and most intermediate stations in the Alps. In addition, an overnight train from Lille will run every Friday to Bourg St Maurice, St Gervais and Briancon. Both services cost £144 return, with a couchette on the overnight train.

Sea culture

THE cultural cruise operator Swan Hellenic (0171-800 2200) offers a great variety of specialist cruises that feature historic destinations around the world with guest lectures from eminent journalists, his-

is still there, as is a Ch Guevara monument and mu seum. Havana, the old colonial world heritage site of Trinidad and a meal at yet another of Hemingway's favourite restaurants, the Floridita, are also on the itinerary. The 15-day Alaska and the Yukon Tour with visits to gold mining towns. national parks, a cruise to the Columbia glacier and a train ourney on a Midnight Sun Express costs £3,365. Arabia Felix, the 12-day tour to the Yemen, costs £1,565.

Call home

THOMAS COOK has launched a rechargeable international phonecard, usable in 50 countries. The card, in £10 and £20 denominations, can be recharged over the telephone. Travellers are paying over the odds to phone home. One Madeira hotel charges a 776 per cent mark-up; the best deal was a 40 per cent mark up in Majorca. The new card is available from Cook's 550plus UK shops and bureaux de change.

English only

DETERMINED English-only speakers can feel safe in Wolsey Lodge's (01449 741 297) privately-owned B&Bs in Spain, Italy and France, ranging from chateaux and manor houses to 200-year-old farms and 17th-century Tuscan villas -- they all have English speaking British hosts.

A night's B&B in a Perigord mill house costs £30 each: or £30-35 in an Edwardian house on a cattle and cork estate overlooking the Bay of Gibraltar. Wolsey Lodges has 224 members in Britain, is a consortium of privately owned homes that welcome paying guests.

All downhill

WEDDINGS can be arranged in the romantic Mountain Chapel on Mont Mansfield in Stowe, Vermont, New England, as an optional extra on skiing holidays with Made to Measure Holidays (01243 533333). The price of £200 includes the marriage licence, use of the chapel and the services of a judge-minister who usually expects a tip". Staying in the honeymoon suite at the family-run Timberholm Inn with log fires from £1,750 B&B per couple, including flights to Montreal, about 90 minutes' drive away, and car hire.

The company also offers ski holidays in Switzerland (seven days B&B from £467 including flights). Alpbach in Austria (seven nights from £569) France and Canada.

The statue of Christ overlooking Rio de Janeiro. Journey Latin America offers a seven-night break in Rio for £781 slopes above Méribel, is one of the more unusual chalets on offer to skiers from the skiing specialists Meriski (0145) 844

The chalet was converted after the war into a small hotel patronised by the French est expedition, and is now a comfortable base for eight foot and an all-inclusive week

Food school

Rio bound

JOURNEY Latin America

(0181-747 3108) offer seven-

night city breaks to Rio de

Janeiro for £781, Santiago de

Chile from £740, and Buenos

Aires from £836, before De-

cember 1. Prices include flights

from Heathrow, five nights'

accommodation in a superior tourist class hotel, and a half-

day city tour. Passengers may

extend their stay up to 90 days.

VISITORS to Paris can join pastries, sauces, or terrines cost Fr2;280 (£260).

Chips are off WITH IBIZA sloughing off its

glitterati, and also by Lord Hunt after his successful Everpeople, situated by one of the 1992 Olympic pistes. It can only be reached on skis or on costs from £529.

Ibiza has a new image

the city and was forced to give

them away to doubting cus-

tomers. However, M Hediard

was first with the pineapple,

tested on his friends Eugene

Delacroix and Alexandre

neither shop is in doubt.

Fauchon is rather old-fash-

ioned, but behind every

counter is an expert who will

go into extreme detail if en-

couraged. A sommelier will

take you on a tour of the stone

wine cellar, stretching in a

warren under the streets,

pointing out Taittinger cham-

Thus the noble lineage of

the Lenôtre Ecole des Amateurs Gastronomes (00 33 1 45 01 71 71) in the Avenue Victor Hugo for a day course for Fr980 (£125) or half a day for Fr570 (£72): each session is dedicated to a single subject and is led by bilingual tutors. The school is open six days a week, and students may take the results of their labours away. Five half-day tickets

Safe chalet

A FORMER Resistance safe house during the Second World War — a plaque commemorates four local members shot for their activities in the area - perched on the

lager-and-chips reputation following a government-funded billion peseta clean-up, Magic of Spain (0181-748 4230) has

introduced the island into its 1997 programme with houses. villas and small hotels in the countryside, above the genuinely unspoilt resort of Cale Vadella, and in the heart of D'Alt Vila, the picturesque old city of Ibiza Town. The Hotel El Palacio is built

into the original city walls and decorated in Hollywood style - the James Dean and Marilyn Monroe suites are adorned with their personal possessions. A week's B&B costs from £775. Today's stars flock to Pikes.

the exuberantly decorated 15th-century farmhouse, costing from £615-£879 B&B per

Fun boat

P&O (0171-800-2222) has introed by a former national Scrabble champion, and the Schweppes Sporting Chall-enge, which will feature a selection of sporting celebrities and include quizzes and games with ticket prizes for major sporting events. P&O is

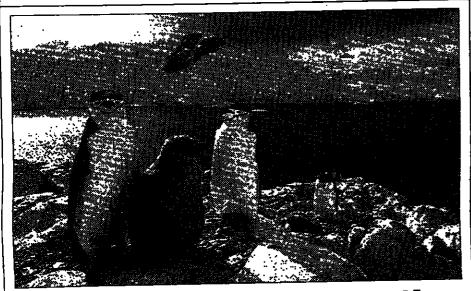
also featuring the popular Archers cruise again in its 1997 programme.

Marco Polo

ORIENT Lines is featuring a growing number of themed cruises on its ship, the Marco Polo. Topics include wildlife of the Indian Ocean with David Bellamy, the television naturalist, as guest lecturer, bowls with the former world champion David Bryant, astronomy and wines of the world. A 17-day gardening theme cruise in March 1996 visiting Australia and the Java Sea, features the writer and broadcaster Nigel Colborn. Prices start at £2,245.

Women only HOLIDAYS for women only

- single, separated, divorced or married but "without encumbrances" are offered in Ayia Napa, Cyprus, by Aphrodite Tours (0101-477-4521). Accommodation is in private rooms, the holidays are scorted by a woman guide. and the company promises "an opportunity to find romance or just have a good laugh". There are three departures in 1996 at prices from £345 for seven days and £420 for 14, including flights and B&B accommodation.



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the remotest and seldom visited areas of Antarctica. The itinerary will feature the best of the Antarctic Peninsula, the dramatic Ross Sea and the extraordinarily wildlife-rich Sub Antarctic islands belonging to Australia and New Zealand.

The large, powerful and extremely comfortable Kapitan Khlebnikov will make a course from Southern Argentina at the height of the Austral Summer to Tasmania on what will be an awesome and life enhancing experience.

The onboard helicopters will allow us to venture inland to the Dry Valleys or to the top of the Ross Sea Ice Shelf. Whilst our Zodiac craft will be invaluable for our forays ashore to the Sub Antarctic islands.

This unusual journey has only been undertaken on a handful of occasions and all those on board will be privileged to share in a unique experience. After a few days on the Peninsula exploring the best of the scenery and wildlife we sail to the Ross Sea, an area seldom visited. Here we will encounter heavy pack-ice and a different side of Antarctica. The Ross Ice Shelf is the largest in the world and we will find the well preserved huts of the historic Scott and Shackleton expeditions. The scenery is spellbinding - smoking Mount Erebus and young emperor penguins raining on the pack-ice.

In keeping with best traditions of expedition cruising we plan to extract every possible experience from our voyage. Much of the itinerary will be pre-planned, but such a trip as this is made all the more enjoyable by impromptu



changes and diversions. The daily reconnaissance by helicopter will allow the captain and expedition staff to take advantage of unusual or exciting events, whilst always keeping in mind the fragile nature of this extraordinary continent.

The IB Khlebnikov

Built in 1981 in Finland the 'Khlebnikov' is a hugely powerful vessel, displacing 18,000 tons. Originally commissioned for keeping the ice-lanes to the North of Siberia open in the Winter, she was converted for passenger use in 1992 and refurbished to a high standard of comfort.

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ucts, enormous fresh food

he opposing armies face one another across the Place de la Madeleine, waiting each morning for battle to commence. In the right-hand corner, uniformed in brown, is Fauchon, and in the left, wearing red, Hédiard. Paris's grandest food empo-

ria - sworn enemies - watch each other's every move. Their weaponry is displayed in terrifying price tags and competing window displays, oozing with crystallised fruit, slabs of chocolate and autumn game birds. Fortunately for any serious foodie, or even foodie-voyeur, there are reasons to go to both shops for each has its strengths. Fauchon is the more

exhaustive, with 20,000 prod-

counters and a daily patisserie display to die for. Hédiard has a smaller

range of 6,000 products, but is in some ways "plus snob", as the Parisians say, with its exquisite red and black packaging and pungent smell of Auguste Fauchon's empire

started as an exotic fruit stall on the Madeleine 110 years ago, and has expanded to cover half a block, including five restaurants. Ferdinand Hédiard had a head start, however, opening his first spice and fruit shop in Paris in 1850, and moving to the Madeleine in 1854.

M Fauchon claims to have brought the first avocados to

pagne in bottles designed by Roy Lichtenstein, and an affordable little Pouilly Fuissé at Fr44. In the patisserie window at present there are slices a foot tall, topped by an enormous cherry, each slice being a cake in itself, concreted in chocolate. The tourists are forced to buy less fragile items so the English buy mustard and the Japanese buy tea, both easily

Dumas.

obtained on native soil. Then there are Fr15 jams, including rose petal and jasmine. Hédiard also does extraordinary jams and jellies in small, home-made style batches, including a curious marmalade with entire slices of orange packing the jar. The coffee

counter will grind beans and

Chocolate soldiers set for war blend, and there are teas by the dozen, some set out for tasting beneath signs saying: The 1996 first flush Darjeeling has arrived!"

The shop has modernised, however, and there are four



Hédiards in Paris and distributors throughout the world. its first-floor restaurant was refurbished last year in cherrywood and colonial-style chairs covered in fake leopard and zebra skin, and is a chic, but not cheap, place for lunch. Hédiard's specialities, bas-

kets of exotic fruits, chocolates and even mini-vegetables -artichokes like small roses with tiny carrots for foliage can be home-delivered by a bellhop in uniform wearing a

hat saying "Groom Etoile". Both Fauchon and Hediard have discovered a growing market in prepared dinners. duck or fish in complex sauces that allow the Parisian working woman to give a dinner party without entering the

kitchen. This is food that transcends mere cookery. On Hediard's wall, a notice says: "Conviviality is the dish of the day. laughter is drunk like a good wine, ideas are good like good bread, exquisite flavours of sweet desserts make your company even more beautiful and good coffee gives wings."

KATE MUIR

● Fauchon, 26. Place de la Madeleine. 8th. (47 42 60 11). Hédiard. 21, Place de la Madeleine, 8th, (43-12-88-88). La Grande Epicerie. Bon Marchė, (stocks Fauchon goods and other specialities) 38, Rue de Sèvres, 7th, (44 39 81

● Les Métiers d'Art de la Couture, exhibition of the crafts behind haute couture the embroiderers, shoemakers, glove makers, jewellers and the finished objects at Printemps department store. Boulevard Haussmann, 9th. from 7 to 26 October.

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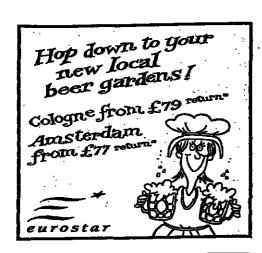
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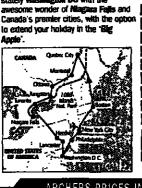
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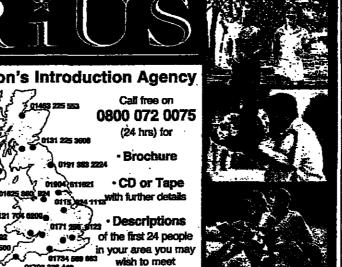


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GAMES

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The Chess Olympiad in Erevan, Armenia, is over, and a particular success story was the performance of the English women's team including the new teenage talents of Harriet Hunt and Ruth Sheldon. Susan Lalic (known as a junior by her maiden name of Susan Walker) is a veteran by comparison, and she too turned in an outstanding result. She held her own on the top board against the world's best, winning the bronze medal for individual performance, and will have been especially proud of the following success against the for-mer women's world champion from China.

White: Xie Jun Black: Susan Lalic Erevan Olympiad, Sept 1996 Caro-Kann Defence

2 d4

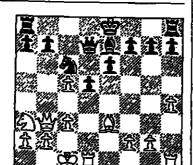
This is a hold gambit continuation, flowned on by theory. 3... Bf5 is the standard move, but it does not allow Black to escape from a complicated middlegame.

4 dxc5. The theoretical recommendation, regarded as strong for White ever since the Tal-Borvinnik world championship match of 1961.

Was this move a blunder, overlooking Black's neat tactical response which regains the pawn, or did White hope to gain time for an attack by returning the material? In any case 8 Bxco Nxco 9 N/3 Qc7 10 Bd4 cements the extra pawn and gives Black more problems 8 . . . Nxe5 9 Nxe5. If 9 Bxd7+

By returning the pawn, White has gained active play for her pieces, of the Chinese former champion w launches a dangerous strike against the future destination of the

However, Black retains the residual advantage of a sturdy central pawn majority. This could well prove important in future hand to



0-0 15 h5 b6. A bold counter, offering a pawn to open up lines against the white king. g6 17 cxb6 axb6

If 18 Bxb6 Bxa3 19 bxa3 Rfb8 leaves White badly pinned.

. B**c5 19 c4 d4**. So, Black has avoided losing a pawn, while her central pawn majority has now

furnished a passed pawn and is generally on the march. 20 Kb1 e5 21 Bc1 Qe6 22 Rhe1 Rfe8

Also possible is the immediate 22 .. Na5, but Black prefers to keep this possibility as a threat.

Na5 24 Qd3 Nxc4 b5! A wonderful idea. If White accepts the sacrifice with 26 bxc4 then 26. . bxc4 followed by . . . Rfb8+ and . . c3 would give Black an overwhelming attack.

26 Re2 Qa6 27 Ne1 28 Bxa3 Bxa3 29 f4 Not only clearing the a-file for Black's attack, but targeting White's weakness on ho.

30 fxe5 Rxe5. An unpleasant shock for White, If now 31 Rxe5 Qxa2+ 32 Kcl Ba3 mate.

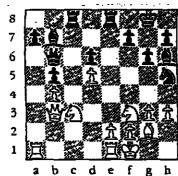
31 Rdd2 Rxe2 32 Cxe2 33 Rxd4 Qc5 34 Qc2 35 Nf3 Bg7 36 Qc5 37 Rd2 b4 38 Qd5 39 Qd7 Bh6 White's king is exposed, and resistance is futile. Ra8 41 Qa4 Rxa4 43 Rd7 Rd1

White resigns. An elegant final point. After 47 Black wins further

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene Black to play. This position is from the game Agdestein - Wells. Gausdal 1983. The Norwegian Agdestein has achieved the unusudouble of becoming a grandmaster while also playing international football for his country. Here, however, he finds himself on the wrong end of a powerful one-two. How did Black win swiftly? Send you answers on a postcard to The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Maoazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday. Lar week's solution: 1 ... Rgl+

Last week's winners: D A S Price, Preston; D K Das, Merseyside: A C



an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from
The Strand Magazine (reproduced with permission from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

READERS are invited to write

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption (20), Weekend Games Page, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final The closing date for entries is Wednesday, October 9.



"I can assure you, Inspector, there are no Smarties under my bed" The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by A. Davies of Blewbury, Oxfordshire

WORD-WATCHING

a. Jaw-iaw b. A pickled onion c. The point of a frieze ALKAPTON

c. Black urine DIETL'S CRISIS a. A severe belly-ache

c. A pole-vault technique

By Philip Howard

a. Bare-headed

b. A Balkan demarche

BARKING DEER a. An East End pub b. A Colour Sergeant c. The munijac **GONION**

b. A Greek vinegar-pot

Answers on page 21

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

JOHN HOLLAND was the declarer on this hand, played in the trials to select the England team for the 1990/7 Macallan Camrose Trophy (the home internationals).

4 A J 8 4 2 ♦A8542 N . . . K985 **+** Q 10 7 3 ₩ E ¥Q8 **+**QJ83 +K1076 ♥AJ109742 **∌**Q98654

4H All Pass Contract: Six Hearts doubled by South.

West's double was for take-out. Even with this intervention, it looks reasonable for North (Michelle Brunner) to bid Six Hearts. East clearly didn't trust her judgment. Holland ruffed the opening lead

That makes eleven tricks.

a) that East may have doubleton 10 or jack of clubs, in which case leading the queen will mean the declarer can later establish a club trick; b) the queen of hearts may be singleton, in which case all dummy's hearts may be used for ruffing. A further point is that, if diamonds or spades split 4-4. dummy's fifth card in that suit can be set up. Spades are the more likely candidate, as if either East or West had five they might have bid

At trick two Holland cashed the ace of spades; he then ruffed a spade in hand, and tried his first chance of a twelfth trick by leading the queen of clubs. When West covered he ruffed in dummy: disappointingly, no honour fell from East. After a spade ruff in hand and a third club ruff with the king of hearts, he ruffed a third spade in hand. By this time dummy's last spade had been set up and this was the position (South on lead):

Lead: the king of clubs

in dummy. What now? South can count seven trump tricks in hand (provided the queen falls in two rounds), two ruffs in dummy and the aces of diamonds and spades. Possibilities of a twelfth trick are

When all followed small to the ace of hearts the second chance of a twelfth trick had gone. One last chance — South exited with a heart. East had to win and play a diamond, and dummy's thirteenth spade and ace of diamonds took care of South's losing clubs. What Terence Reese used to call a "watch and wonder" hand - fascinating how it unfolded. You see the lead to beat the slam?

COMPUTER CAMES AND PASTIMES. by Tim Wapshott

WHEN YOU DANCE, do you look like an epileptic fish out of water, wriggling around on wobbly legs as if you had ants in your pants? If so the name of your affliction, and it's a word we don't hear so much these days, is "cakewalking". The As the audio tracks play Cake Walk requires erratic, frolicking quicksteps and was a craze which gripped American dance halls in the 1890s.

It has survived, and can be seen on the dance floor of most happening rave events coming to a field in the middle of nowhere near you soon. Something else which is still with us thanks to "cakewalking" is the syncopatic music era it inspired, Ragtime. For those of you whose know-

ledge of rag is little more than Paul Newman's 1972 movie The Sting, then you need Robert Winter's Crazy for Ragtime which is a music treasury, as finely tuned as they come. Winter has overseen a sublime project delivered with as much upbeat energy as the musical style it is appraising.

The story of rag is told effort-lessly by Winter, illustrated with sensational archive clips, but he leaves the music to speak for itself on over 50 interactive tracks. You can listen to everything from Scott

Joplin's The Entertainer (1902) and Maple Leaf Rag (1899) to the lesser-recognised but equally delicious Adaline Shepherd's hot foot-tapper Pickle and Peppers (1906).

you can simultaneously follow the music on the score, with a floating cursor box to help you keep up. You can change the instruments used from concert piano, Hammond organ and harpsichord to bird tweet. You can also play around with the modulation, at the risk of turning them into something so painful Les Dawson could have dashed them off.

Equally absorbing is the compose-your-own department, where you can mix'n match musical phrases to compose uniquely individual rags. From MacMillan Interactive

Publishing, the title comes on dual-format CD-Rom for Mac and PC. Attica and EMI Classics have collaborated to produce Orchestra, a PC CD-Rom which comes with two discs, the other being an audio CD performance of The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. penned by Benjamin Britten in



some sensational archive clips

1946. Sir Simon Rattle plays host here, introducing us to The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra performing Britten's guide.

Mr Rattle and the body of the title do not roam far from Britten's theme though what you get looks and sounds great. But a golden opportunity to sprinkle a little musical invention into the mix for the benefit of young would-be

composers has been missed. Home music mixing in the Nineties calls for Data Becker's Techno Maker CD-Rom, in which you lay your own techno tracks using a combination of 140 audio samples. External samples can also be included and rearranged in your creations. The packaging claims, overzealously, that this software is all you need to "get into the charts with your own creations", which says too much about the state of today's music charts. Still, the results are good enough to keep you locked into your compositions well into the wee hours. The tackiest musical title I've come across for a long time is Music Maker from Steinberg Music Sales. This CD-Rom

which fits over a few rows of keys on the QWERTY computer keyboard. Once in place, so long as your fingers aren't too big and topple it, you play along with 15 classics - House of the Rising Sun, Everybody Wants to Rule The World, Back in the USSR and so on. Music Maker has all the might of a squeaky early Casio but

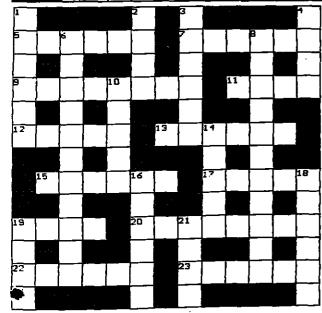
comes with a tiny plastic keyboard

fortunately novelty compensates for tack. With the dainty keyboard in place, you play song melody lines if you're up to it. Variations permit those with little musical ability to hear all the right notes even if they depress all the wrong keys, while Drum Along lets you pound backing beats with a choice of tinny kits. Bob Geldof is 42 today and if you're short of a present for him you could do worse than a Music Maker. Alternatively, you could instantly order him a CD from the UK's newest music shop.

The Internet Music Shop (iMS) holds a database of 45,000 album CDs and those in stock can be ordered down the line during your visit. You can look up details of complete album catalogues for favourite artists and, in many cases, call up individual track listings. So, since there's no obligation to place an order, it becomes a handy music reference database in its own right. In addition to the catalogue, click into the virtual shop to listen to audio samples for a selection of upcoming releases. You can access iMS at

http://www.musicshop.co.uk. "Extraordinary how potent cheap music is." Noel Coward. Private Lives (1930).

IMES



No 905

Steal petfily (6)

8 Pamper (11)

16 Submissive (6)

18 Small task (6)

Supply (input); eat (4)

Accuse: run into attack (6)

To see the cherry hung

with —" (Housman) (4)

Wrote down; famous (5)

19 Earnest wish: confidence (4)

21 Open-air swimming-pool

6 Informal vote (4.2.5)

14 (Fit of) resentment (5)

ACROSS Pay to protect (6) Hired killer (3.3)

:: ?

9 A fish; be out of one's depth

11 A defect (4) 12 (Bird) settle to sleep (5)

13 Soft breeze (6) 15 Cheap material, esp. cloth

17 Copy another's words; price a job (5) 19 Be suspended (4) 20 List of dates, events (8)

22 Blaise -. wrote Pensées (0)

22 Saturn 23 Sheenish

SOLUTION TO NO 904 ACROSS: 2 Bagpipes 6 Girder 8 Carpet 9 Bellows 10 Eerie 12 Sanguinary 16 Taskmaster 18 Eaves 20 Snuggle 2t Valley

DOWN: 1 Liberat 2 Brownies 3 Prayer 4 Paper 5 Sitter 7 Delegate 11 Eyesight 13 Admonish 14 Declare 15 Jeeves

17 Asleep 19 Value
GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS. PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY TO EU
CUSTOMERS (REST OF THE WORLD ADD EI PER ITEM) OF THE ITEMS
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THE STATE OF THE S No 3378: Thirty One by Radix

SOLVERS SHOULD shade in the 30 squares where there is a conflict between answers, and in each case resolve the conflict by performing an appropriate calculation modulo 31 with A-1, B-2, and so on. In arithmetic modulo 31, you discard all multiples of 31: so for example 17+19=5). As well as the customary letters of the alphabet, one hyphen (which should also be shaded) and four other familiar characters appear in the completed diagram. Chambers (1993) is recommended; one short phrase is in Collins, and five accents should be ignored. ACROSS

Order Collins Concise? (5) Stags are running risks (8)
Baker's speciality? Spread in it has turned (5)
In the year before Wimbledon finalists return...(4)

...what separates them is clear (3) Jackdaw's cry? A Scottish one's weak (3) Joke in St Andrews about university pub (4) Muscular function with an end to dystrophy (6) Young child's bone (3)

20 22 24 Rickety pile? Ignore false piety (6) Can she possibly make ready? (6) Monkey - he's escaped from jet (4) An extra seen briefly in sketch (8) 2b 27 Distrait home spectators half follow batsmen out (6-

Towing vehicle back needs constant period of time Every one's a preacher at heart (4) A further proof concerning power and energy (6) With lobes unequal and greatly distorted — no good 40

700,000 pounds per square inch (3) Interest amounting to 29d (6) Swedish botanist's pulse (4) Wingless fly infesting flock with edacity? (3)

Is it real? Take it anyhow! (3) Gram — donkey's back unaffected by a gram (4) Long for Coe to lap Ovett just one time (5) Fish always inside propping up the bar? (8) Keep navy in harbour (5)

Wash railway truck (5) Leash? Yes, maybe, initial research suggests (3) Curling erratically without aid, like a tendril (7) I should become chief — the veteran isn't in touch (6)

A variety of dark green mate in English -? Possibly!

A number lacking in understanding and opinionated Improvised on Porter's last lyric (4)

Reginald's girl (3) 10 Time off work — once — is okay by school governors

Summons up missing energy to practise xylophone (8)

12 Throughout 80% of solo by German (6) 19 What a disgusting settlement! (3)

21 Where boys and girls learn to get half plastered (4) 23 Aged surgeon involved in old-fashioned crisis (4)

25 Parliamentary dithering - not I pray typical of our Parliament? (8) 26 Forget attache's rank (4)

28 Dispute our viewpoint? (7)

29 Benefit from a drink in Tokyo? (4) 30 Erected fine toilet on waste lands newly reclaimed (7)

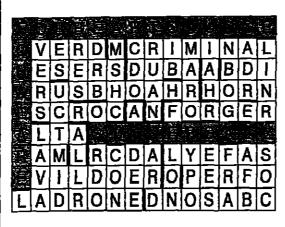
32 Tucker in good condition (6) 33 Bizarre circus man possessing spirit (6) 34 Play truant in brothel (3)

35 One with pretensions to being...a starlike figure (5) 38 Relatively young eyes - fish spotted in nanoseconds

39 A number of bits by Telemann - the final six are lost

43 Trust no vehicle (Hill) (3)

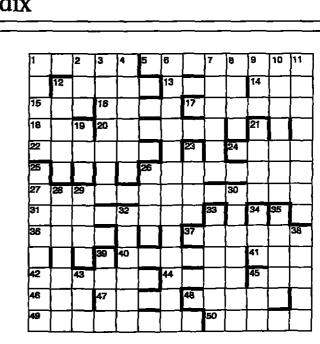
45 - up in a Rover? (3)



Solution to 3376: The Plays of the Bard - III Forbear to judge' - words meaning 'to judge' omitted from answers. Across: 14) over-ruled; 17] rehearsers; 22) Findhorn: 35) findram, 41) perforate. Down 2) oversees; 3) redeems; 8) truantry; 25) Andesite; 30) all-seer; 32) narrated; 39) fratry. For we are sinners all' — sinners' hidden in quotes in jumbled

form, interruptedly in 15.
Notes: Across. 14) roved with r pear end; 17) res(t)ers; 18) baud. A in bud; 19] dib, d i b(oy), bid rev; 20) bush-harrow, shh a in burrow; 22) hidden; 28) Taal, ta a (so)! (id); 35) a in RM; 36) card. 3 mngs; 38) safely, anag; 41) per + rev. of; 43) abscond. anag. Down: 2) 2 mng; 3) res(t); 4) Serb; inits; 5) bred. R in bed; 6) chasm. Chas. m; 7) cord. c or d; 8) anag; 9) Ibo, i bo; IO) major, 2
mngs; II) huia, anag less anag; I2) handog, gon[e) had anag; I3)
drag. d + rag, mngs; I6) inscroll. in s/c roll; II) dictum, i
c(augh)t in rev. mud; 24) Doors, door + s(ixties); I2) and + iruts;
I7) fable. Fable; I2) aval, a val(e); I3) II in a r; I2) (poo)r in anag;
I3) pory, p(en) o ry; I4) esse, hidden; I4) Fr. a.

The winner is: M.A. Trollope of Worthing, West Sussex. The two runners up are: Alan Lye of Edinburgh and Mrs W. Beard of Coichester, Essex.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3378

In association

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HERBAL HISTORY

Folk lore and fiction

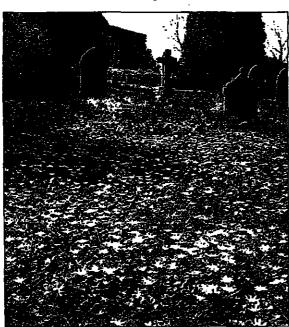
he use of wild plants in herbal and folk medicine is on the increase in Britain again — although it is a highly subjective business and rarely tested scientifically. Personal faith, idiosyncratic sensitivities and mode of use all influence the results.

But there have been some discernible traditions. Most remedies must have been discovered by trial and error. In more recent times, trial and error as a scientific discipline has brought plant-based drugs into mainstream medicine - for example. digoxin from

It is hard for us to imagine the awe with which plants were held in a prescientific age., Barely distinguishable species could feed you, poison you or drive you mad. It is no wonder that all manner of theories were developed to explain and predict their effects. The most popular system was sympathetic magic. This was based on a search for analogy, association and pattern within nature, and in the belief that like (or sometimes unlike) would cure like. Ivy berries would cure drunkenness, because ivy strangles vines. Some authors believed that windy food-plants such as lentil could protect (by repulsion) a garden from gale damage. It is easy to mock these beliefs as primitive and superstitious, but they were based on observation and

ly, in the expansive, market-driven climate of the 17th and 18th centuries, they began to be vulgarised by commercial herbalists into the Doctrine of Signatures. This decreed that all plants had been "signed" by the Creator with some physical ciue to their medicinal qualities. Yellow flowers were marked out for jaundice. The blotchy, oval leaves of lungworts were ordained for diseased lungs. But the doctrine was responsible for probably the bulk of the materia medica in the written herbal tradition.

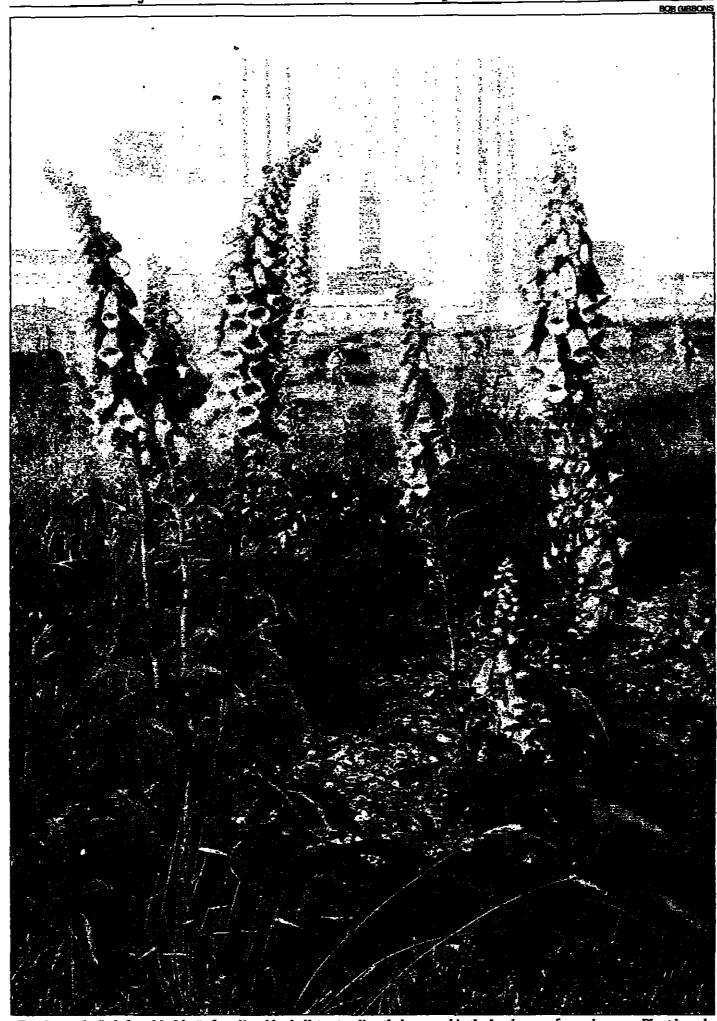
Tet there is a third strand of indigenous plant medicine, often overlooked in the written herbal tradition, in which both the above strands were rooted. "Folk medicine" relies on native plants, but is essentially an oral tradition. derived from experience mixed with family and local customs and a dash of superstition. Although the medicinal history of many plants is included in Flora Britannica, the evidence of current use is chiefly confined to this last category. Given the local nature of the folk-medicine tradition, it is surprising how much agreement there is about effective plants. There were about six species that were recommended from personal experience, from all over Britain, and by mainstream practitioners, too.



Plants on holy ground were considered especially strong

Richard Mabey's Flora Britannica is the definitive new guide to Britain's wild

beauty. In the second of our extracts he explores native remedies



Foxgloves, the "witches thimbles" of medieval herbalists, standing their ground in the landscape of a nuclear age. Plant-based drugs such as digoxin from foxgloves have now been brought into mainstream medicine through scientific trial and error

An aspirin by any other name





Malati Barik had the harrowing experience of watching her mother go blind in her old age, and she was terrified that history was about to repeat itself when her own eyes began to cloud over. Thankfully she came to a Sight Savers' eye hospital where surgeons carried out a simple cataract operation.

It cost just £10 to restore her sight. Please will you help someone like Malati to see again by sending us a donation for £10 or whatever you can afford? We have restored the sight of nearly four million people and we rely almost entirely on public support to carry on our work.

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■ Bog-myrtle

The aromatic resins have been used for scenting candles, and the whole plant is still used as an insect repellant. In 1995 a midgerepellant based on bog-myrtle, Myrica, appeared on the market. It was produced from wild myrtle gathered by crofters on the Isle of Skye. Eight volunteers each had one arm covered in a gel made from the essential oil and the other left untreated. Over ten minutes, the untreated arms recorded 155 bites while the treated arms received just 13.

■ Broad-leafed dock

Still universally used to rub on nettle stings, dock has also been used as a more serious salve by adults. One contributor wrote: "My grandmother's practice was to collect young dock leaves before breakfast. These were still wet with dew. They were thoroughly washed before being added to pure melted pigs lard. The mixture was allowed to reduce on a low heat until the residue was a pale green colour. after which it was strained into clean jars and, when set, sealed. This ointment was used for the treatment of piles."

■ Common valerian

The clusters of pinkish-white flowers, out from late June to August, have a high vanilla-like perfume. which can become overpowering. The dried roots, by contrast, have a stale, rancid smell. (Valeric acid occurs both in the plant and in human perspiration.) Cats are fascinated by the smell and react in the same intoxicated way as they do to cat-mint. The roots have quite strong sedative properties, and an extract from them is found in many proprietary herbal tran-quilisers. It is reputed to have been one of the drugs of which SCIENCE AND NATURE





Horse chestnut, left, is used in shampoos and gels, while rose-hip syrup is still made from farmed "wild" roses

Dandelion has long been used as a herbal djuretic and laxative. Its reputation has been confirmed scientifically. It contains high levels of potassium, an element that is removed from the body when urine production stepped up.

Foxglove

The foxglove was once widely used in folk medicine, despite its high toxicity. Infusions of the leaves were given for sore throats and catarrh, and compresses for ulcers, swellings and bruises. But it was most frequently employed as a diuretic against dropsy. The 18th-century botanist and physician William Withering realised that the leaf's principal action was on the heart. He found that the leaf could be an invaluable help in the treatment of heart failure. His insistence on the use of small and accurately measured quantities of dried foxelove leaf ("digitalis") led to a new discipline in the prescription of powerful plant drugs and eventually to the

isolation and purification of the foxglove's active principles digitoxin and digoxin, still used as

Horse chestnut

The soap-like chemicals (sapo nins) conkers contain are added to some shampoos and shower gels to enhance their "natural" image. German scientists have discovered that aescin, extracted from the nuts, is an effective remedy for sprains and bruising. The British Forestry Commission expects to grow 5,000 to 10,000 acres of horse chestnuts to supply pharmaceutical firms.

Nettle family The idea of using nettle stings as a counter-irritant to "warm away" inflammations, has some roots in sympathetic magic, but it also has a degree of practicality. According to the Elizabethan antiquary William Camden, the Romans, well aware that Britain would be cold, brought nettle with them to rub on their skins. One contributor wrote: "Both my mother and I use this plant on any joint that gives painful symptoms. The treatment is simple - sting the joint liberally with the plant, and if possible move the joint well immediately after application. Some relief is felt within 30 minutes, but the gently tingling warmth is felt for

Rose-hips

During the Second World War, rose-hips came into their own in the form of rose-hip syrup. Nutritional scientists had known since the 1930s that wild hips had a higher proportion of vitamin C than any other common fruit or vegetable. (A cup of rose-hip pulp provides more vitamin C than 40 fresh oranges.) The syrup is still made commercially today, though from farmed "wild" roses, and many country-dwellers still make syrup, often following instructions given by the Ministry of Food in their booklet Hedgerow Harvest (1943). The hips have to be collected in late summer when they have just turned red, to maximise the vitamin C content. The process involves mincing, stewing and then, crucially, straining through a jelly-bag to remove the prickly seeds, which can be a dangerous internal irritant. Boiled again with sugar and reduced, the hips make a syrup.

■ Willow family

Bitter infusions of willow bark vere employed as a remedy for chills, rheumatism and "the ague". The remedy worked, and in the 19th century the active ingredient was isolated from willow bark and meadowsweet This led in 1899 to the synthesis of what was to become the world's most widely used drug, which the pharmaceutical company Bayer called aspirin, after the botanical name for meadowsweet, Spiraea ulmaria.

CURING PLANTS

The healing powers of 'knit-bone'



Comfrey is often found at the wayside

mong the nationwide contributors to Flora Britannica, these three plants were reported as being most helpful:

Comfrey, Symphytum officinale, the native Common comfrey, S. x uplandicum, Russian comfrey and S. asperum. Rough comfrey - the most common species - tend to be used interchangeably in herbal

As can be guessed from its surviving common names — knitbone, nip-bone, ass-ear — comfrey is still used as a healing poultice, for sprains, bruises and abrasions. and with more apparent success than almost any other herbal medicine. Comfrey (probably a corruption of the Latin conferva, a healing waterplant mentioned by Pliny, whose name is related to the verb confervere to grow together) contains allantoin, which promotes healing in connective tissue. The medieval herbalists knew the plant as "boneset", and the root was lifted in spring, grated and used much as plaster of Paris is today. The whole plant was regarded as a masterhealer and was used for everything from drawing splinters to easing backache.

Today, the uses are just as various. A contributor wrote: "I work as a GP, and one of my patients had a coronary artery bypass recently. The lower end of the long leg wound failed to heal despite numerous standard dressings of different medical products. After an interval of a few days I visited the house to find a beaming patient. The leg wound was healed. He was delighted to tell me he had made an infusion of comfrey from his own plants and applied dressings soaked in the infusion."

Similar stories of use on ageing and arthritic joints come from many places, including an old people's home in Staffordshire. Its use even extends to household pets. ibutor wrote poultice for a dog after a road accident — his fur grew back, so I used it on a bald guinea

pig, whose fur also grew back."

The old practice of taking regular comfrey infusions or concentrated tablets for gastric ulcers and colitis is now discouraged, as the plant contains alkaloids that can cause liver damage. But comfrey was eaten quite widely in the Second World War and the occasional young leaf eaten as a salad, or fried in batter is unlikely to cause any problems.

Teverfew, Tanacetum parthenium. As its name suggests, feverfew was a medicinal herb given for colds and fevers. In fact it was almost the classical and medieval world's aspirin, recommended for headaches, rheumatism, and general aches and pains. It reached Britain from the Balkans during the early Middle Ages, it has become one of the great success stories in herbal medicine and had its reputation vindicated by the City of London Migraine clinic. In 1978, after a newspaper story about a woman who had rid herself of migraines by chewing feverfew leaves daily, Dr Stewart Johnson decided to undertake a long-term survey of 270 feverfew-takers (partly to ensure that they were not harming themselves). The results were remarkable. After a leaf a day for three months, 70 per cent reported a significant decrease in the frequency or severity of their attacks. A third appeared to have abolished their attacks altogether. These results were confirmed by a more rigorous trial (BMJ, August 31, 1985) The active chemicals have now been isolated and shown to work by stopping blood vessels in the brain going into spasm, believed to be the immediate "cause" of migraines. Many sufferers now make feverfew pills, sandwiches or nibble the leaves.

reater celandine. Chelidonium majus. The custard-yellow, butter-cup-sized flowers of greater celandine would not immediately make you place it in the poppy family. But cut the stalk or leaves, and the latex characteristic of the family (orange in this species) oozes out. The latex has a successful role in herbal medicine as a wart-remover. This always may have been its role in folk medicine; and the reason it is so often found in rough ground close to buildings may be because it was once a common plant in cottage physick gardens. Edited extracts from Flora Britannica to be published by Sinclair-Stevenson on Monday at E30. © 1996 Richard Mabey.

NEXT WEEK

CUISINE SAUVAGE Wild foods and how to use them

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